THE TIMES

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Women and children freed by Hutus

Bandits seize Britons on gorilla safari

By Susan Bell, Robin Lodge and Stephen Farrell

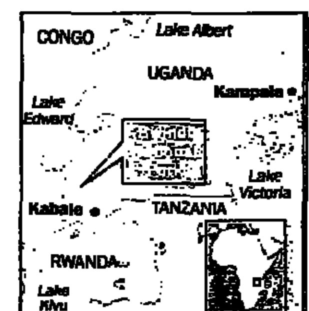
UP TO 14 tourists, including five Britons, were kidnapped by Hutu rebels as they slept at a gorilla reserve camp site in Uganda yesterday. Their attackers, who were armed with spears, guns and machetes, also killed a game warden and set cars and tents alight before fleeing into the forest.

The bandits — thought to have been members of the notorious death squads responsible for the massacre of half a million peple in Rwanda five years ago — are believed to have taken 27 people from the camp in the remote Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, but they later let all the women and children go.

It was not clear last night how many were still being held captive, but Michael Cook, the British High Commissioner in Kampala, said that he had received reports that as many as five Britons could be among the hostages, along with several Ugandans, three Americans, three New Zealands, a Swiss and an Australian. He said: "There is obviously anxiety because of the reputation of the group that has taken them, and the inaccessibility of the area."

The raiders were reported to be heading for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, having released up to 15 people who were described as safe, but "in a terrible state after their ordeal". They were returning to Kampala last night.

René Roudaut, the French ambasssador in Kampala, said that about 150 heavily armed bandits had surprised the holidaymakers as they slept at the Buhoma camping site on the northern edge of the park. As dawn broke, the tourists were rounded up at gunpoint and stripped of their valuables while the raiders set fire to vehicles and tents.



Some French-speakers tried to communicate with their attackers, but it was not clear whether they were responsible for negotiating the release of the women and children. Those included France's deputy ambassador to Uganda, Anne Peltier, and four French tourists, a Scottish woman, three Americans, two Danes and four Australians. Two American men avoided being taken prisoner by hiding.

Mr Cook said that those who escaped had reported "a deal of shooting and shouting" as tourists groups from a number of camps were assembled and marched to a camp, "where some were sent away and some were taken away. They are shaken but no one is physically hurt, except for odd bruises from running down hillsides."

The London firm, Acacia Expeditions, confirmed that 15 of its clients and two crew leaders had been involved, but it did not know who had been held or released.

Mike Jones, managing director of the holiday firm Abercrombie & Kent, said that there had been eleven people in their camp when the raid took place and three of them, including a guide, were taken hostage. The others, French and American tourists, had been taken back to Kampala.

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "We do not yet have confirmation of the nationalities or numbers involved, but we certainly believe that British people are involved, both in the kidnapped group and the group which escaped.

"We are pretty certain that there was a local guide killed, but none of the tourists. We are making arrangements for those who escaped to be flown back to Kampala."

The Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, created in 1991, covers 331 sq km of rainforest on the edge of the western Rift Valley, south of Lake Edward.

It is home to more than 300 mountain gorillas, divided into a dozen groups — more than half of the world's wild mountain gorilla population — and is also famous for nearly 350 species of bird.

The park, whose name means place of darkness, has two tourist camps a few hundred yards apart. One is owned by African Pearl Safaris, and a night there costs between 30 and 65 dollars; the other is Abercrombie and Kent's Buhoma Gorilla Camp, with self-contained standing tents, which cost upwards of 200 dollars a night.

The Park is visited by thousands of tourists every year, but it has become increasingly dangerous as a result of raids by the Hutu rebels who are thought to have carried out the latest attack.

There have been several incidents of rebel forces crossing the border into Uganda to hijack vehicles — either killing or abducting their passengers. Last August, the rebels kidnapped four tourists, a Canadian, two Swedes and a New Zealander, in the region to see the gorillas. The Canadian was later released, but the others have not been seen or heard of since.

FCO accused, page 2

GEOFF CADDICK



The Prince of Wales and Alun Michael, the Welsh Secretary, sample the banned cut of beef yesterday in Newport although the bones are clearly visible

Prince goes near the bone over beef

By Valerie Elliott and Michael Harvey

THE Prince of Wales was last night embroiled in a political controversy over beef on the bone after he and Alun Michael, the Welsh Secretary, ate the banned meat at a Welsh food promotion.

An investigation by environmental health officials was under way to discover how the heir to the throne and the cabinet minister came to be offered the banned cut.

The Prince described the meat as "absolutely delicious" and he and Mr Michael encouraged others to taste it.

They were presented with the sirloin by Trefor Jones, a top Welsh chef, with the banned ribs plainly visible on the table in front of them. It was then sliced for them by James Martin, a television celebrity chef.

Buckingham Palace suggested last night that even if the Prince had realised that the meat was on the bone he would have eaten it anyway. Mr Michael also claimed he did not know that he had eaten the banned product, although he remarked: "Nice to see it cooked properly."

Later Mr Michael was forced to backtrack and said he would never have eaten the meat if he had known it was on the bone. A Welsh Office spokesman said: "Mr Michael just didn't notice that it was beef on the bone in among all the activity of a royal visit."

Both men are in the clear legally, however. It is not unlawful to eat beef on the bone but a spokeswoman for the Ministry of Agriculture said it was illegal to supply it even when provided free of charge. Public health inspectors are to visit the Celtic Manor Hotel and Golf Club, near Newport, which served the cut, banned following the BSE crisis.

The organisers of the Welsh promotion, which was specifically backed by the Prince to help Welsh farmers stricken by the farming crisis, could now face legal action.

Steve Howells, a spokesman for the hotel, said the meat had been supplied by their regular firm, Welsh Brothers, of Newport. He said that they had not "deliberately flouted the law" and had believed that the ban only applied to sales of beef on the bone.

"If we are in the wrong then it is because the rules are confused. There should be much clearer rules and guidance. There was no intention of putting the Prince in an awkward position."

Alan Duncan, the Tory health spokesman, accused the Government of embarrassing the Prince and called on Mr Michael to argue for the ban to be lifted.

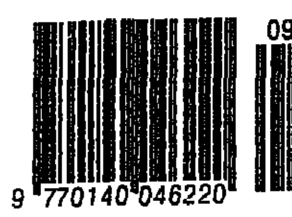
Tony Blair's official spokesman said: "Somebody selected a series of cuts of beef, and at a function to promote British beef Alun Michael ate them. Had he known it was taken from a cut that would be banned for sale he clearly would not have done it."

The Prince seemed unconcerned by the controversy and told farmers, butchers and civic dignitaries at yesterday's launch: "I am only sorry that so many of you have had to wait in here, building up an enormous appetite whilst having to look at this huge hunk of roast beef. Shortly, you will be able to taste it like I did. It's absolutely delicious."

Car fume shock for Los Angeles

Car exhaust fumes which cause cancer are putting Los Angeles residents hundreds of times more at risk of fatal disease than the federal Clean Air Act allows............Page 15

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Straw in race relations warning to police chiefs

By Stewart Tendler, Philip Webster and Adam Sage

JACK STRAW yesterday warned chief constables that they must take race relations seriously or face government intervention in their forces.

Senior officers could also find themselves back in the classroom attending race relations training alongside top managers from business and industry. The Home Secretary said that it was wrong that chief constables received no further training once they took command.

Mr Straw issued his warning as he released the results of a study into police work on tackling racism. The study showed that policy on community and race relations was peripheral in many forces.

The release of the study preceded an announcement from Mr Straw that an independent investigator had been appointed to examine the leak of the highly critical report by Sir William Macpherson of Cluny on the Stephen Lawrence case.

Mr Straw, who defended his decision to leave the country for the weekend without giving any clue as to precisely where he went, said that the investigation's findings would be reported to MPs. The appointment of the investigator, as yet unnamed, shows the seriousness with which Mr Straw takes the leak.

Of his weekend away, he said only that it was a long-standing family engagement that he had fulfilled in the south of France — and that he had been right to do so. "We have obligations to our families even if we are politicians," he said.

The Conservatives, who attacked Mr Straw for leaving Britain and not making the Commons statement on the affair on Friday, switched their attack back to the original leak. Sir Norman Fowler, the shadow home secretary, said there was a real possiblity that the leak had come from within the Government.



"Terrible day: the police have arrested Man Friday"

He demanded that Mr Straw personally seek assurances from any minister, adviser or civil servant who saw the report in advance that they had not played a part in its prior publication.

The Home Office inspectorate of constabulary told forces 15 months ago that they would have to do better on community policing. The release yesterday of the follow-up study by the inspectorate revealed that 17 of the 43 forces in England and Wales still did not have any community and race relations policy.

Mr Straw told police that new "Best Value" legislation would allow police authorities and ministers to intervene if a force did not reform. The Local Government Bill will give ministers powers to intervene if a force is performing badly. The force would be told for example to draw up a race relations plan or make the issue part of annual targets.

Commenting on the report, Mr Straw said: "We are now at a watershed in police and community relations. This is a time for permanent and irrevocable change."

He said forces would face another audit within the next 18 months.

Lack of action, page 9

Elderly must wait on care

By Jill Sherman and Alexandra Frean

FRANK DOBSON was last night attacked for delaying his response to a Royal Commission report that calls for a £1.2 billion annual package to give free long-term nursing care to elderly people.

The Government infuriated care organisations by declaring that it would put the proposals out to consultation until the end of the year, in effect delaying any legislation until at least 2001 — and possibly until after the next election.

Announcing to MPs the long-awaited report's key recommendations, the Health Secretary made clear that the Government was unhappy with such a big bill to the taxpayer and hinted that the package could be partly funded through private insurance schemes.

Whitehall sources also indicated that the Government would not be able to provide the funding for at least three years, as Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, had committed resources for that period.

The Royal Commission on Long Term Care for the Elderly, set up 14 months ago, recommends that the State should cover the costs of nursing and personal care for all, while those with incomes above £60,000 should pay for accommodation and food in both nursing and residential homes. But the 12 Commissioners were divided and two of them produced a minority report rejecting the key conclusions and calling for a less expensive solution, backed up by private insurance.

Mr Dobson called for an "informed debate" about long-term care, saying that the report made clear there was no "obvious answer" and there should be a full consultation. But he emphasised its findings that the country did not face a demographic time bomb and "that the cost of long-term care should be shared by the individual and the state" and be separated from those of board and lodging.

While refusing to rule out full funding, Mr Dobson suggested that the Government might cherry pick from the findings, choosing the cheaper options, some of which would not need legislation.

The Tories accused Mr Dobson of ducking the issue and dithering. Philip Hammond, the Opposition health spokesman, said that while the Commission had been deliberating 75,000 people had been forced to sell their homes to fund care.

Report's proposals, page 4
Leading article, page 23

Strange question of silage provides fodder for thought

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

WHAT on earth was Derek Wyatt (Lab) talking about? Would the minister for tourism, Mr Wyatt asked yesterday, alter "the way silage is coloured on our motorways?" The inquiry was met by a bemused rumble from MPs.

But Wyatt's indignation was not spent. "It is dirty brown. It does not give an appropriate image of new Britain."

Snatching Sittingbourne and Sheppey from the Tories in 1997, Wyatt was the thirteenth least likely new Labour MP. Now he was asking unlikely questions. Is our motorway system disfigured by spilt silage? Isn't silage dirty green? Can the Government change its colour?

Bald, hulking and amiable, Wyatt looks like a baby giant auk, tumbled too early from the nest. Roth's *Parliamentary Profiles* calls him "relaxed about clothes and appearance". "I'm not a suit man. I have only one." A former Oxford Rugby blue, Wyatt may have sustained one blow too many to the head, on yesterday's showing.

I certainly heard "silage". Collective head-scratching on all sides suggested that MPs heard the same. As, surely, did the minister, Janet Anderson: stumped for a reply, she stammered that her honourable friend raised — "as ever" — the most interesting questions.

But my *Guardian* colleague thinks he heard "signage", meaning "signs": which would have made sense if it were a word. Apparently it does feature in local government dictionaries, after "new-build" and before "social mix" and "total spend". We must give Wyatt the benefit of the doubt: he may be less interesting than he seemed. New Labour backbenchers are not supposed to be interesting.

Which is why Gwyneth Dunwoody (Lab, Crewe and Nantwich) comes as such a relief. The veteran "old" Labour rightwinger arrived yesterday arrayed in a new garment. A vast purple wrap, hundreds of square yards of it, covered this substantial lady. She described the "enormous opportunities" presented by the Millennium Dome: "a great public space," she said. Ah, Gwyneth, how true: but not our greatest public space! It lends a whole new meaning to the right to roam.

And a new fascination to the concept of women's rugby, heavily plugged yesterday by the Sports Minister Tony Banks.

For Monday mornings, Mr Banks chooses a wicked little black suit, three-piece, which he wears with a puckered face and sourly deadpan expression. Apropos of nothing much, Mr Banks offered his congratulations "to the England women's rugby team, on their victory over Scotland". Mr Banks's felicitations will raise a cheer in the ladies' shower room.

"I was there," he declared grimly. "And it was in fact very, very enjoyable rugby and I'd encourage people to go to women's rugby." Sadly, Mrs Dunwoody looked unconvinced.

Claire Ward seemed more game. The Labour MP for Watford was keen that Banks should promote after-school clubs. Banks said he had been impressed by these on a recent visit to Watford, a constituency foolish enough to reject him as Labour candidate in 1979.

Ms Ward, he mused, would have been seven. "Too young to vote — and too old to kiss." Ward looked flustered by the thought.

Unflustered and benign throughout was a minister this Sketch had scarcely noticed, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Leader of the House, Paddy Tipping. An unpaid appointment, he is so unimportant that new Labour's style police have not even bothered to remove his beard.

But can he make it, with that name? Paddy Tipping sounds like an alternative Saturday night sport for canal-side skinheads bored with queer-bashing.

Rugged area is a haven for genocidal rebels

Tour groups demand clearer official advice, report Michael Binyon and Stephen Farrell

ONE OF the travel agencies whose tourists were attacked last night accused the Foreign Office of issuing unclear guidance, despite official warnings two weeks ago that rebel attacks and road ambushes in Uganda's northern and western districts had intensified.

The advice, issued 11 days ago, said that rebels were "periodically active" on the borders of Uganda, Congo and Rwanda, and warned "although the situation is currently peaceful, it can change quickly".

It also warned that operations by a separate rebel group infiltrating from the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the Rwenzori Mountains area in the west of the country were continuing at a reduced level and that the areas of the Rwenzori Mountains, Bundibugyo and Kasese "should be avoided if possible".

However Sue Ockwell, a spokeswoman for Acacia Expeditions, complained that the advice was sometimes worded in such as way that it contained clues which had to be deciphered.

"If they mean 'Don't go', they should say 'Don't go'. It is a bit like estate agent-speak," she said.

She claimed the issue had been discussed at a meeting with the Foreign Office minister Baroness Symons a week ago. "We were told by her that there are only three and a half people manning the travel advice section. We get hundreds and hundreds of pages. It is very difficult to imagine how they can manage to handle it with such limited resources."

Yesterday the Foreign Office advice was swiftly updated: all tourists were warned not to go to the northern and western areas at all.

Visitors were strongly advised to avoid the Gulu, Kitgrum and West Nile districts unless they were on urgent business, in which case they should seek local information and proceed with caution.

The kidnappings quickly stirred alarm among those familiar with the inaccessible mountainous area. It has long been the refuge of criminals, wanted men, rebel groups and, more recently, the extremist perpetrators of the Rwandan genocide killings who are determined to return to power. Some of the bloodiest and most desperate wanted men are thought to have established their bases in the area.

The main rebel group in the area is the Allied Democratic Forces, a loose alliance of former Interahamwe Hutus, responsible for the death of as many as one million Tutsis in the Rwandan genocide. They are allied with Ugandan rebels opposed to the Kampala government, supporters of former President Mobutu in Zaire and local bandits.

Numbering up to 3,000 men scattered in the mountains, they are strong enough to take on the Ugandan Army, and last year overwhelmed and briefly occupied Kasese, the main town at the foot of the mountains. They are well armed, receiving supplies from Sudan and from President Kabila's government in Congo, which is fighting rebels backed by Kampala.

Control Risks, London-based business risk advisers, said that the Ugandan Army tries to deter any tourists going to the mountains, the principal habitat of gorillas. Those that defy the warnings set up camps that are guarded only by local warders, who could keep off poachers but would be unable to stop well-armed guerrillas. It said the Interahamwe fighters would be unlikely to take hostages and would probably kill any Europeans they seized.

One of the only two other Britons currently missing and believed kidnapped was seized in this area by Rwandan Hutu rebels. Jason Kear, who holds dual British and New Zealand nationality, was trekking with other tourists to see gorillas on the border with Uganda and Rwanda when he was seized with a Canadian and two Swedes. The Canadian woman was released, but nothing has been heard of him since.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY



Dian Fossey, who spent much of her life studying gorillas in Rwanda, was believed to have been killed by poachers

GORILLAS ARE MAIN ATTRACTION FOR UGANDA TOURISTS

EVER since an unruly three-year-old gorilla called Pablo became a television star by sitting on David Attenborough in the late 1970s, thousands of tourists have made the journey to meet its relatives (Adam Sherwin writes). With the closure of the parks in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo because of civil war, Uganda is the only country where tourists can find the elusive beasts.

Only 350 mountain gorillas are known to remain in Uganda's Impenetrable Forest and irresponsible tourists, desperate for a glimpse, are causing more damage to the subspecies than poaching or civil war. The number of official visiting permits has dropped from 50 to 16, leading to a black market in tickets.

People paying £680 for the flight to Entebbe will often bribe the wardens: permits that normally cost £150 per visit have changed hands for £1,000.

Tourists head for Bwindi, in the remote southwest corner of Uganda, near the border with the Congo and Rwanda, home to the majority of the animals. Another 100 live 50 miles away in the Virungas, a chain of mainly extinct volcanoes on the Congo and Rwanda border where Dian Fossey, of *Gorillas in the Mist* fame, lived and worked for 13 years until she was killed, probably by poachers, in 1985.

Lawyers demand action over costs

By Frances Gibb
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 100 solicitors will attend a crisis meeting at the Law Society today to demand action over a multimillion-pound shortfall in the fund that pays out on negligence claims.

Some solicitors are facing rises of up to 100 per cent in their compulsory insurance premiums to meet the shortfall of some £360 million, which they say will push up legal fees to the public. The shortfall has arisen because of incompetent conveyancing solicitors in the late 1980s when the housing market collapsed.

More than 100 solicitors are calling on the Law Society to allow them to obtain their professional insurance cover on the open market. At present all law firms have to pay the premiums of the Solicitors' Indemnity Insurance Fund which is some £433 million in the red.

Some 100 law firms have called a special general meeting to force the Law Society's hand. There will also be a special council meeting today by the Law Society's governing body to decide what action to take.

The Indemnity Fund cautions against the lure of the open market. While premiums might at first be low, they could rapidly rise if the market changes, it says. Elizabeth Mullins, managing director, said the open market was unlikely to provide the extent of cover provided by the Fund.

Older teachers 'too expensive'

By John O'Leary
EDUCATION EDITOR

MIDDLE-AGED teachers are being frozen out of the job market as schools opt for newly qualified staff to help balance their budgets, new figures have shown.

More than 8,000 people were seeking teaching jobs in mainstream schools while claiming state benefits last month even though there were up to 3,000 vacancies in England and Wales. Up to half of them were in their forties and fifties.

The number of teaching vacancies has been rising steadily throughout the 1990s, although last year's total of 2,521 still represented less than 0.7 per cent of the full complement in state schools. Secondary schools struggled to find suitable candidates in foreign languages, mathematics and some science subjects.

However, new statistics from the Employment Service show that more than 16,000 teachers are seeking work in primary or secondary schools. Although some are newly qualified graduates, fewer than 4,000 are in their twenties.

The largest group, at more than 4,600, are in their fifties. Most are thought to have taken early retirement and are hoping to supplement their income through temporary teaching work. Their lengthy service makes them expensive to employ permanently, difficulties experienced by older applicants has led to the formation of the Association of Teachers Against Ageism. Harry Harris, its treasurer, said: "This is not just a problem in teaching, but it is particularly serious in schools."

Stephen Hillier, the Teacher Training Agency's head of communications, said the age profile of those seeking jobs in schools followed that of the teaching profession as a whole. "It may be that many of these people are in the wrong place or have the wrong qualifications."

Leading article, page 23

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sewage action demand

The Government yesterday told the water industry to clean up sewage while cutting bills by 10 per cent. Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, claimed the combination was achievable but Water UK, the industry's trade association, said there was a £2 billion shortfall between what water companies believed the programme would cost, and figures produced by Ofwat and the Environment Agency. Mr Meacher said that in future all coastal discharges serving populations of 2,000 or more must receive at least secondary treatment.

Car sales 25% down

Figures to be published this week are expected to show a fall of more than 25 per cent in new car registrations in January and February. Car manufacturers, braced for an 8 per cent fall in sales over the year, are hoping for high March sales after yesterday's launch of six-monthly registrations. Although private orders are low for T-reg plates, fleet sales are expected to be good.

Obsessed secretary guilty

Gillian Hartshorne, 50, the secretary of Professor David Canter of Liverpool University, a leading criminal psychologist, was found guilty of harassment causing fear of violence against him. Hartshorne, who became obsessed that he was having an affair with a student and bombarded him with more than 500 abusive telephone calls, will be sentenced on March 15.

McDonald 'improving'

The Channel 4 presenter Sheena McDonald, who suffered serious head injuries when she was hit by a speeding police van, showed signs of a slight improvement. She is still in intensive care at University College Hospital, Central London, but is now able to breathe without a ventilator and her condition remains stable. She was hurt in an accident on Friday night in Islington.

Porn teacher jailed

A public school teacher and former lay clerk at Ely Cathedral who downloaded child pornography from the Internet onto his home computer was jailed for four months. Jonathon Bowden, 30, who taught music at The King's School, Ely, admitted 21 charges at Chelmsford Crown Court, Essex. The offences came to light when Bowden took his computer for repairs.

Scots told to keep nuclear deterrent

By Michael Evans, defence editor

A NUCLEAR-FREE independent Scotland would dangerously weaken Britain's nuclear deterrent, the Defence Secretary said yesterday.

George Robertson, who in his youth campaigned against the deployment of American ballistic missile submarines at Holy Loch, told a Scottish audience that the Royal Navy's Trident submarines must remain at Faslane because the base on the Clyde had long played an important part in Britain's defence.

Delivering his first major speech on nuclear policy at Aberdeen University, Mr Robertson warned the Scottish Nationalist Party: "Those who would take Scotland out of the United Kingdom need to address the implications of separation for the rest of the country."

The nationalists, he said, were committed to closing all nuclear installations on Scottish soil and prohibiting all nuclear-powered submarines from Scottish waters.

The clear implication, he said, was that the Faslane base would have to be moved south.

"What would happen to those jobs linked to the nuclear facilities at Faslane? What would be the timescale for withdrawal?" he asked.

Mr Robertson also asked whether the SNP had bothered to think about the years of "fraught" negotiations between Russia and Ukraine to divide the Black Sea Fleet, following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

"Would a separate Scottish state compensate the rest of the United Kingdom for any costs that arose?" he asked.

Mr Robertson also called on Scottish nationalists to consider the cost of setting up a separate Scottish Army, Navy and Air Force.

After several bumpy false starts, the Breitling Orbiter 3 balloon takes to the skies in the Swiss Alps yesterday, starting a race to the finish with the Cable & Wireless craft which is currently attempting to manoeuvre around China

Global balloon race finally takes off

FROM HELEN RUMBELOW IN CHÂTEAU D'OEX

THE challenge to be the first team to circumnavigate the globe in a balloon became a true race yesterday with the launch of Breitling Orbiter 3 in the Swiss Alps.

Andy Elson was hanging outside his Cable and Wireless balloon over the Bay of Bengal yesterday morning when his co-pilot told him that their rivals were airborne.

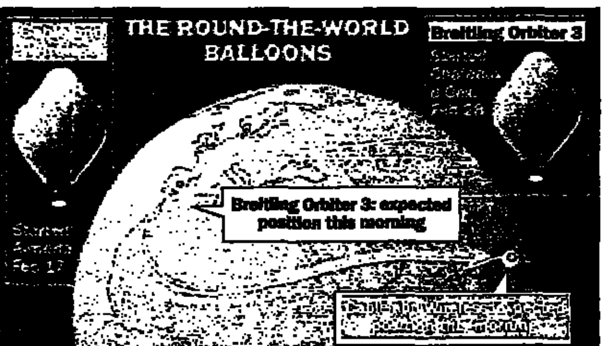
Although it is 6,000 miles behind, the Breitling Orbiter is smaller, lighter and will go faster - a lean hare to the Cable and Wireless tortoise.

The news only added to Mr Elson's frustration at being forced to take the slow route around China. As they are a British team the Chinese have banned them in retribution for Richard Branson's trespassing balloon flight at Christmas. Although the Cable & Wirless craft has broken the world endurance record of 10 days and will by tomorrow have spent a fortnight in the air, now at 20mph they can only sit and watch their rivals catch them up on the best 100mph winds going over China.

However it was a rocky start for the Breitling Orbiter 3 in Château d'Oex and for Brian Jones, the British co-pilot who was standing on top of the capsule as it launched.

The same fast winds that have the team confidently predicting they will be around the world in 15 days caused the 55 metre high silver balloon to strain at its tethers.

It crashed down to earth five times with alarming crunching sounds, rocking Mr Jones on his feet before it finally shot up into the air at 8.05am.



Mr Jones, 51, a ballooning instructor from Devizes, Wiltshire, had earlier asked the 5,000-strong crowd to sing Happy Birthday to Bertrand Piccard, his Swiss co-pilot who was 41 yesterday.

This was forgotten in the anxiety of take-off. "It was a very difficult dangerous take-off," said Joanna Jones, his wife, a balloon pilot and member of the Breitling mission control team.

"Balloons are not meant to bounce like that and to make it worse this is the first time Brian has been on top of the capsule as it launches.

"It makes it worse to know how dangerous this can be. I was trying not to watch but it all got a little bit more emotional than advertised."

Within three hours of launching the pilot announced that the balloon had been undamaged by its battering and predicted they would be over Morocco by this morning.

They aim to be on the Pacific coast by this weekend, gaining at least a week on their rivals and possibly overtaking them.

"This is tedious low level manoeuvring," said Ian Achpole, flight director for Cable & Wireless. "But it's important to get around China, and still have enough fuel to get all the way around the world."

The Cable & Wireless balloon is predicted to be close to the coast of Burma by this morning. The Breitling headed at 17mph over the Matterhorn and on to Turin and Nice. By this morning the Breitling team hopes to be travelling over the coast of Morocco and by tomorrow to Mauritania where they aim to pick up a 100mph jet stream, heading for China in around six days.

Just before lift off Mr Jones said that the Breitling team had never felt so confident.

"The idea that we are taking off in a last ditch attempt at the end of the season couldn't be further from the truth," he said. Instead, he said, the winds were faster than they had predicted.

The Cable & Wireless team has given up efforts to repair a faulty heater, which has left Colin Prescot and Mr Elson forced to wear Arctic survival gear at high altitudes.

A spokeswoman said: "It is not ideal, but it is not mission-threatening, so they will just be putting a brave face on it."


Brian Jones kisses his wife Joanna goodbye

Boy, 13, is not guilty over death of brother

A BOY aged 13 who accidentally killed his brother with a knife bore no responsibility for his death, a judge said yesterday.

Mr Justice Poole told Leeds Crown Court that Daniel Cooper was not guilty of a manslaughter charge arising from the death of his brother, Richard, 18, and that he should "put this matter behind him".

The judge's comments came after the prosecution dropped a charge of murder against the boy, then offered no evidence when he pleaded not guilty to an alternative charge of manslaughter.

Aidan Marron, QC, for the prosecution, told the court that Richard Cooper, a builder's labourer, had been been stabbed through the eye during an argument at the family home in York last December.

Mr Marron said that after struggling with his father, John, Richard had grabbed Daniel by the face with both hands.

"Daniel grabbed hold of a nearby kitchen knife. He held it by the handle with the blade pointing up. There is no suggestion that it was held in a stabbing fashion," he said.

Mr Marron said that when Richard suddenly moved forward the blade of the knife penetrated his eye and brain. He died in hospital the following day.

Paul Worsley, QC, for the defence, said: "This was a tragic accident, as young Daniel has always said."

Take That star challenges £1m court decision

BY JOANNA BALE

ROBBIE WILLIAMS, the reformed bad boy of pop who won three Brit Awards this year, began another courtroom battle yesterday with the man who launched his show-business career.

Lawyers for the 25-year-old performer are challenging a High Court ruling that he must pay his former manager, Nigel Martin-Smith, £90,000 in commission under the terms of a complex management agreement. At stake is an estimated £1 million when legal costs, VAT, interest and further ongoing commission are assessed.

The case, in the Court of Appeal, dates from 1995 when Mr Williams left Take That, the phenomenally successful five-piece boy band created by Mr Martin-Smith in the late 1980s. Michael Silverleaf, QC, for the singer, told how Mr Williams decided to leave because he found "the tight restrictions" imposed by Mr Martin-Smith to maintain the band's clean-living image "somewhat difficult".


Williams: second legal fight with ex-manager

"There is no dispute that Mr Williams, in terms of his ability to perform, was widely perceived to be the funnyman with the ability to get the audience going . . . he was generally regarded as the frontman."

Alluding to Mr Williams's penchant for alcohol and drugs, from which he has now recovered, Mr Silverleaf added: "Mr Williams began to go out to parties and enjoy himself, which caused friction. He began to talk about leaving because of his desire to get on and work on his own, but he made it quite clear that he was quite happy to fulfil all the commitments of the band."

However, the other members of the band, Gary Barlow, Jason Orange, Mark Owen and Howard Donald, told Mr Williams that Mr Martin-Smith had advised them that he should leave immediately.

Mr Silverleaf argued that Mr Martin-Smith was therefore not entitled to the commission because he had breached the management agreement. "Instead of organising the dissolution of the band amicably, he decided to protect the remaining four."

The hearing continues.

Clowes is jailed for benefits fraud

BY A CORRESPONDENT

PETER CLOWES, the disgraced financier, was jailed for four months yesterday after he was found guilty of making false claims for job seeker's allowance.

Clowes, 56, sentenced to ten years after the collapse of the investment company Barlow Clowes in 1992, had denied claiming £1,800 in benefits when he was working.

Judge John Rogers, QC, sitting at Mold Crown Court in North Wales, told Clowes, from Stockport, Manchester: "You informed both orally and in writing the Benefits Agency that you weren't working. That was untrue."

During the five-day trial, the jury was told that Clowes was accused of three specimen charges over a four-month period from December 1996 to March 1997.

Robin Spencer, for the prosecution, said Clowes had been working for a computer company in London called WP Software. However, he had left that job and begun claiming benefit while living with his wife and two children in a rented, £800-a-month house in Macclesfield, Cheshire.

But, the prosecution said, he was working as a computer programmer for a business trading under the name of PC51, set up by his step-daughter and her boyfriend. He had been paying his household bills from the business bank account. Clowes was being "paid through the back door".

PC pounds beat in search of jury

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A JUDGE faced with a shortage of jurors ordered a police officer to go out into the street to press-gang passers-by. But not one person agreed to help.

Judge Richard Hayward ordered the rare move when an indecent assault trial in his court at Lewes, East Sussex, was delayed for four hours after a female juror failed to attend.

He sent PC Dave Bielkus to find a replacement but the men and women in the street, showing a marked lack of civic duty, all made excuses and left. The problem was resolved only when a juror summoned three hours earlier finally arrived in a taxi. The incident occurred on Friday but details were not disclosed until the trial finished yesterday to avoid any possible prejudice to proceedings.

A jury of 12 had been sworn in on Thursday and the prosecution had opened its case before Judge Hayward adjourned the proceedings overnight. On Friday morning, no trace could be found of a female juror in her 20s.

Judge Hayward was forced officially to discharge the 11 remaining jurors to allow a fresh group of 12 to be selected and sworn in, but all potential jurors were by then serving in other trials.

Court staff tried to contact Hove Crown Court, ten miles away, to see if it had any spare jurors, only to get an answerphone message. Finally a spare juror did arrive from Hove to bring the pool of available jurors up to 12.

That still left a problem: a jury has to be selected at "random" and for that to happen a pool of at least 13 must be available. Judge Hayward agreed to send court staff outside to "summon someone on the street". Eventually, a 13th juror arrived more than three hours after being contacted at home and told to take a taxi.

Mark Venables, 21, from Hove, East Sussex, was found not guilty of indecent assault.

Alexandra Frean on the Royal Commission's proposals

Elderly may not have to sell up to afford care

ELDERLY people could be spared the anguish of having to sell their home to pay for long-term nursing or residential care. Proposals unveiled yesterday by the Royal Commission on Long-Term Care for the Elderly proposed making all nursing and personal care — including administering medication and help with washing and dressing — free to all those who are assessed as needing it.

Normal living and housing costs would remain the responsibility of care-home residents under the proposals, which would cost the state £1.2 billion to implement in the first year.

The radical proposals also include raising the savings level — including the value of a home — that a person can have before they have to start paying for their own care, from £16,000 to £60,000.

The new system would be overseen by a National Care Commission, headed by a "care czar", which would enforce minimum standards and monitor costs.

A dissentient note, signed by two of the 12 commissioners, rejected the main proposals as

THE FUTURE

too costly and recommended that people should be able to borrow against the value of their house to fund care.

Sir Stewart Sutherland, chairman of the commission, said that the current system of funding long-term care, which divides responsibilities between the State and the individual, was complex and confusing and created real fear among those approaching old age. "This is a scandal in modern Britain and it must be changed," he said.

"If we have a heart attack or cancer, we know that the health service we have paid for through our taxes will deliver the care we require without further payment. But if we are unfortunate enough to become frail and need care through old age, we suddenly find we are expected to meet some or all of the costs ourselves. This is not right," Sir Stewart said.

Other recommendations include:

- The value of a person's home should be disregarded for up to three months after admission to care in a home, to ensure that people are able to return to their own home if needed.
- The opportunity for rehabilitation should be included as in integral part of any care assessment.
- Budgets shared between health, social services and other statutory bodies should be integrated.
- Local authorities should be allowed to make loans to individuals who need aids or housing adaptations that will enable them to stay in their own home.
- A national carer support package should be introduced and £220 million a year set aside to help carers. This would need to rise to £700 million by 2050.
- More emphasis should be given to delaying illness and dependency on long-term care, through health education and more preventive medicine.

Sir Stewart said it was important to "shatter the myth that the nation cannot afford to pay for personal care for its old people". There was, he insisted, no such thing as a "demographic timebomb" and the cost of care was affordable.

"We have taken advice from the most eminent economists and we are confident that we have got our sums right," he said.

The nation currently pays £11.1 billion a year on long-term care for the elderly, including contributions from individuals. This would rise to £45 billion by the middle of the next century. If the proposals were implemented, the State's share of costs would rise from £8.2 billion at the moment to £33 billion by 2050.

Organisations representing the elderly welcomed the report and urged the Government to act on it immediately.

Leading article, page 23

JOAN RUSSELL



Patricia Davey: "My mother's generation thought they had paid their dues and they would be looked after in old age"

The age-old dilemma

THE MOTHER

LIKE tens of thousands of others, Patricia Davey is looking for a residential home for an elderly parent.

Her mother, Marjorie, a widow who suffers from dementia, is recovering from a broken leg and the family has decided that they can no longer provide her with the care she needs in her own home.

Although Marjorie, 78, does not fully know it, she will have to sell the small terraced house she has lived in for the past 14 years to pay for her nursing home fees of £316 to £380 a week. This is because her savings — including the value of her house — come to more than £16,000. Once her assets have been reduced to £16,000, the State will be liable for some of the costs, and once they fall to £10,000, the State should pay her fees in full.

Mrs Davey, from Morley in Leeds, is upset at having to sell her mother's home. "It is not a very nice feeling, especially when you know that people who do not have a home to sell get all their care for free."

She welcomes the commission's recommendation that no pensioner should have to pay their own nursing and personal care costs. "My mother worked in the mills during the war and after that always had a job. Her generation saw the NHS come into existence. They thought they had paid their dues and that they would be looked after in their old age."

'State cannot foot bill for all'

THE DISSENTERS

By Jill Sherman
Chief Political Correspondent

A MINORITY report from two members of the Royal Commission rejects the main recommendations as too expensive but suggests that elderly people should be able to take out a government loan to avoid selling their homes.

David Lipsey and Joel Joffe have produced a "dissenting" report which argues that the poorer taxpayer should not be footing the bill for care of those on higher incomes. They suggest an extension of private insurance for nursing and residential care by extending pension tax breaks, while accepting that it cannot entirely replace funding from taxation.

The two commissioners recommend that the Government allocates £300 million to cover the shortfall for nursing and residential homes. They also suggest raising from £16,000 to £30,000 the level of savings allowed before people have to pay for their care, and changing the amount payable if savings drop below £30,000. They call for the end of the anomaly where people in nursing homes pay for their care whilst those in hospitals, residential homes and their own homes do not.

Means-testing is unpopular and seen as unjust

By Alexandra Frean

THE CHOICE NOW

THE present system of means-testing for care in old age is deeply unpopular and perceived as grossly unjust.

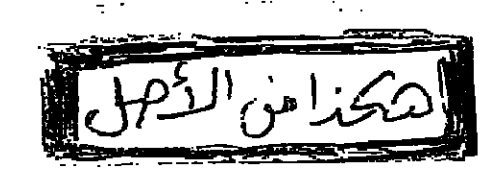
Many people who have carefully saved all their lives and paid off their mortgage regard it as unfair that they should have to use up all their savings and sell their family home in order to pay for their care, while those with no savings get it free from the State.

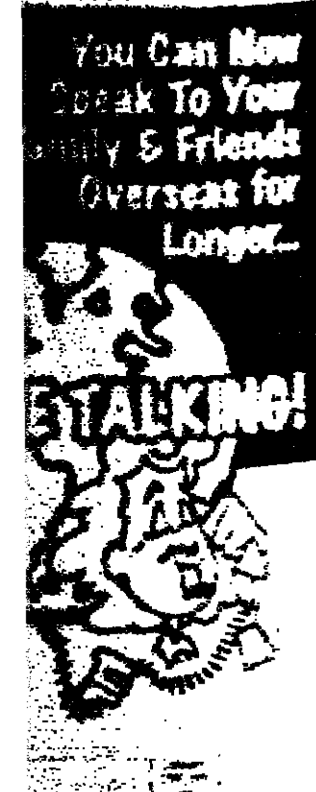
Under present rules, people who move into a residential or nursing home have to pay all the costs until their income (including state benefits) and savings (including the value of their home, if they live alone) have been reduced to £16,000, at which point the State will pay for part of their care. Once savings fall to £10,000, the State will meet the full costs.

There is also the huge perceived injustice concerning types of illness. An elderly person with cancer and needing hospital care would get it free on the NHS. Those of the same age with Alzheimer's disease, however, would have to pay for all or part of their care, merely because they would be unlikely to be admitted to hospital and would have to stay in their own home or in a residential establishment.

One way to protect assets is to take out a long-term care insurance policy. Depending on a person's health, gender and age, a monthly premium of between £50 to £70 could be expected to provide up to £10,000 care cover a year.

Elderly people needing care can no longer rely on their immediate family to provide it. In a recent survey only 40 per cent of adults said that if a parent needed care they would try to look after him or her themselves; 55 per cent said they would not expect their own children to look after them.





Oxford college sees drink as bar to success

By Helen Johnstone

AN OXFORD college is considering a cut in bar opening hours in an attempt to improve students' examination results.

Reducing evening opening by an hour is one of a series of measures academics are discussing with undergraduates at St Catherine's. At present the college languishes 28th out of 30 in the Norrington Table, the unofficial league table of Oxford colleges' academic performance.

Students are fiercely critical of the plan, which would restrict opening hours from 8pm to 11pm instead of 7.30pm to 11.30pm. More than 250 protesters packed into a routine junior common room meeting normally attended by only 50.

An unofficial poster on the college's JCR notice board invited academics to set a better example by cutting their own consumption of wine at college dinners. The poster suggested it would ensure dons were on top form "to lead their sinful students back to academic paradise" rather than branding them "feckless delinquents bloated on Castlemaine".

Balveen Ajimal, the JCR president at St Catherine's, said yesterday that students generally thought the idea of reducing bar hours was a bad one. She said: "It would encourage people to go out into town, which takes more time. It might encourage people to drink more in a short period of time and there is a benefit of having people in college when they are going to drink rather than send them into town."

Ms Ajimal emphasised that a number of measures were being considered to raise academic standards at the college following meetings between the JCR and fellows. "The relationship between the two has been good, with quite a bit of give and take. I hope the idea about the bar will not be seen as a punitive measure, rather as one of many constructive suggestions being considered. The governing body is having a big rethink about how the college is performing. There will be no quick changes."

An academic policy committee, set up at St Catherine's to increase standards, is expected to make a number of recommendations to the university's governing body.

Ms Ajimal said students and staff shared a mutual desire to raise standards, including the quality of tuition and lecturing. Both sides wanted to investigate ways of ensuring students got more out of their degree. The primary aim in the discussions was not to improve St Catherine's position in the Norrington Table but to make sure students got the academic support they needed.

Martin Jackson, bursar of St Catherine's, yesterday confirmed that a working party of fellows had been looking at academic standards and had examined bar opening hours among a wide range of domestic activities affecting academic life.

He said he had not seen their report and was not aware of proposals to cut bar opening hours.

Any changes would be done in consultation with the junior common room. He added: "The report has not yet been seen by the governing body of the college. Until that takes place nothing in the report is either a proposal or an item for action."

Students say study and alcohol do mix

STUDENTS at Balliol College, Oxford, believe that their results refute any link between bar opening hours and poor academic performance (Helen Johnstone writes).

Balliol, whose students enjoy the longest bar opening hours of any Oxford college, shot up to fifth place from 19th in this year's Norrington Table. Neville Eisenberg, the college's junior common room president, said: "It is absolutely ridiculous to suggest that closing the bar would improve academic results."

He attributed Balliol's success to its strong academic record. "Ours is one of only two bars at the university run by students and we open from 6.30pm to 11pm," he said. "If people want to drink, they will go into town to drink, and that would result in more problems."

Harris Manchester College, bottom of the Norrington Table, yesterday denied that alcohol consumption had anything to do with its position. Caroline Barnes, 26, a JCR spokeswoman, said: "Our college is low in the table only because it is small. We are all mature students and there are only about 120 of us.

"Our bar is like a small living-room. Few of us ever overindulge. There are not many students who are under 30 and we are quite happy to have a couple of glasses of wine after dinner."

Tony George, bar manager at St Catherine's College, said that he rarely saw more than 50 students on a weeknight, and that many of them wanted only a can of cola. "They don't drink massive amounts. If you reduced the opening hours they would just go into town and drink there," he said.

Balveen Ajimal, St Catherine's JCR president, said: "We are more laidback here than at other colleges where there is much more of a bar culture. We have a pool table and television and they attract as many people as the alcohol."

She conceded, however, that last year's favourite tipple was a "bit dubious". "It was called Cuban Fire and I think it was a type of rum punch. Fortunately, most students have gone back to drinking beer," she said.



Pet rescue: a fireman reaching for the trapped Armani



Back behind bars: the hamster after its two-day jaunt

Firemen dig deep to save hamster

A PET hamster that disappeared down a drainpipe at its owner's home in Aspley Guise, Bedfordshire, at the weekend was eventually rescued by firemen from 6ft under the garden patio yesterday.

One fire engine and a rescue unit with 12 firefighters on board attended after Armani could be heard by her owners scratching underground. The firefighters had to dig a deep hole to expose the pipe and free the animal, and that meant ripping up the patio.

Armani, a female hamster, was eventually freed by a fireman who had been lowered head first into the 6ft hole by his colleagues. The firefighters had earlier sent a remote-controlled camera down the pipe and were able to see where Armani was stuck.

The trouble began on Saturday when the hamster escaped after being let out of its cage during a power cut. Karen Wakefield, 32, her husband Tim, 37, and their sons Tom, 7, and George, 5, searched by candlelight for Armani. But when the lights came back on, there was no sign of the pet hamster.

The search continued on Sunday and yesterday morning Mrs Wakefield heard the sounds of scratching from a pipe that ran from under the kitchen sink to the garden outside. The family called in the fire brigade.

Catholic school bans Red Nose Day

By Adam Sherwin

A HEADMASTER has banned pupils from taking part in Red Nose Day because funds raised by the charity Comic Relief support projects that promote contraception.

Children at Rosary Roman Catholic School in Saltley, Birmingham, will not be allowed to wear red noses or collect money at school for the appeal on March 12.

Jim Caffery, the head, said: "We are against Red Nose Day because of its support for contraception, abortion and sterilisation, which I believe is a moral evil."

Mr Caffery's stand was supported by the Roman Catholic Church. The Catholic Media Office said: "People will question whether family planning is a need in the same way as acute poverty."

Comic Relief said that misleading information had been circulated about its activities. "We do not fund abortions or sterilisation. We fund work that promotes informed choice about family planning," a spokesman said.

Village wins compromise on grant

By Simon de Bruxelles

A VILLAGE that spurned the offer of £180,000 from the National Lottery for a new leisure centre was yesterday celebrating a far smaller grant to improve its existing hall.

The 352 residents of Llanbedr, near Crickhowell in Powys, said last year that they were "too middle class" to accept the initial offer from the lottery's Millennium Fund, and that poor former mining communities in the valleys of South Wales would be worthier recipients.

The issue split the village, with those who wanted a new leisure centre accusing their neighbours of snobbery, but in a mini-referendum last year residents voted 135 to 76 to keep their old hall.

Yesterday the National Lottery Charities Board, a separate body responsible for allocating lottery money, agreed to spend £87,000 on the 70-year-old brick hall, at which generations have held harvest festivals and fetes.

Duke cuts rents by 15 per cent

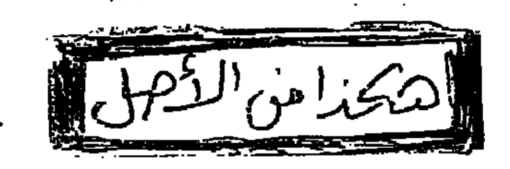
By Claudia Joseph

THE Duke of Northumberland has agreed to cut his tenant farmers' rent by 15 per cent. The duke, 41, who is one of Britain's wealthiest men, has offered the 170 tenants, who pay between £55 and £65 an acre, the choice of a rent decrease or improvements on their farms.

He told them: "The last 18 months have been the worst in living memory. Poor weather and low yields, on top of a high pound, low prices and BSE, have produced a rotten cocktail."

The duke's family seat is Alnwick Castle, set in 100,000 acres, as well as Syon House in London and a shooting lodge in Berwickshire. The tenants' farms range from 200 to 1,000 acres and Northumberland Estates has a turnover of £100 million.

☐ EU talks on farm spending were postponed until Thursday after France protested that some proposed reforms were too radical.


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Twin gets £2.5m for error that blighted her life

A slip-up at birth tragically diverted the paths of two sisters, reports Ian Murray

A GIRL aged ten whose intelligent mind is trapped inside a gravely disabled body was awarded £2.5 million yesterday.

The High Court was told that Katie Whitley's disabilities were caused in the half hour between her twin sister's birth and her own. Mr Justice Butterfield said that although the case was a tragic one, the Whitleys were a "delightful family" who had "lit up the sometimes gloomy surroundings" of London's Law Courts.

The girls were born on April 13, 1988, at Maidstone Hospital, Kent. The elder child, Emily, was born naturally and was well but Katie's delivery proved so difficult that doctors had to carry out a Caesarean section.

In the half hour between the first birth and the operation, Katie nearly died because she was starved of oxygen. Doctors saved her life but she was so disabled that she was doomed to a life of total reliance on care. Although she fully understands what is going on around her, she has difficulty speaking and has limited mobility.

Katie was taken into court in her wheelchair yesterday by her parents, Denys, 44, a computer consultant, and Vivienne, 42. Emily and her eldest sister, Clea, 13, sat near her.

David Richardson, the family's counsel, told the court that the half-hour delay in delivering Katie was something that would have grave consequences for the rest of her life. But despite her disabilities, she was a cheerful little girl who was enormously fortunate in having such a loving family behind her. Katie suffers from dystonic paraplegia, which means that she cannot stand or walk unaided, can scarcely speak and has uncontrollable spasms, although her intelligence is not affected.

Nerve cells die without oxygen and babies at birth are especially vulnerable to being deprived of it.

A baby's brain cannot tolerate a total lack of oxygen for more than about five minutes. When the supply is limited, cells that control different functions are destroyed progressively.

Through her father, Katie, of Newcastle in Co Down, Northern Ireland, had sued the West Kent Health Authority, the managers of Maidstone Hospital.

The health authority, the court was told, admitted 95 per cent liability for Katie's injuries in October 1997 and had agreed to settle her claim for £2.5 million.

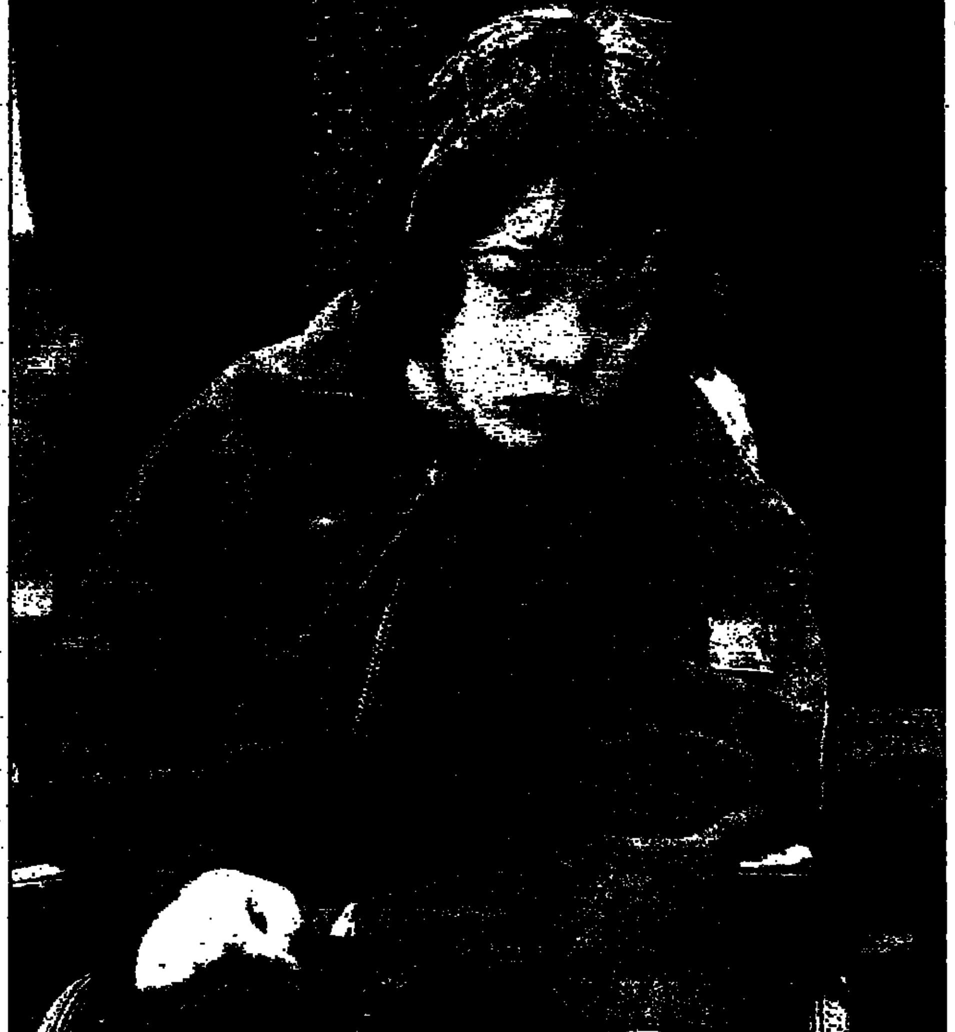
Philip Havers, QC, for the authority, also paid tribute to the "remarkable devotion" of Katie's family. "We on this side wish them well," he said.

Liability had been "admitted to a very, very substantial extent", he said and his clients wished to express their "deep regrets for the events which gave rise to this claim". Although no amount of money could turn back the clock, Mr Havers said, the settlement figure was "large on any view" and the health authority hoped that it would ensure a happy and fulfilled life for Katie.

"This is another example of the triumph of hope over adversity," he said, wishing the family "every fortune".

After the hearing, Mr Whitley said that he was pleased that the case had been settled without the need for a contested trial.

"We are obviously delighted to get the whole thing settled in a way which makes sure Katie will be properly cared for for the rest of her life, without ceaseless battles over her education and care," he said. "She will have her own resources."



JAMES HORTON

Katie Whitley yesterday: she nearly died at birth after her brain was starved of oxygen

Game warden 'hid evidence of murder'

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN NAIROBI

THE former Kenyan game warden accused of murdering Julie Ward lied and suppressed evidence to deflect suspicion of his involvement, the Nairobi High Court was told yesterday.

Simon Ole Makallah's conduct after the disappearance of the British tourist "can only cast a deep suspicion of his motives", Salim Dhanji, the prosecutor, said in his opening address.

Mr Makallah is accused of murdering Miss Ward, 28, at the Masai Mara game reserve in September 1988. He was the first to reach the site where Miss Ward's remains were found.

An initial Kenyan police investigation concluded that Miss Ward had committed suicide by setting herself alight and that her body had then been torn apart by animals. A police post-mortem report was later found to have been altered to remove references to the body having been cut up. Miss Ward's father, John, who was in court yesterday, has devoted the past decade to discovering the truth about his daughter's death.

As a result of his efforts, and the involvement of detectives from Scotland Yard, two game wardens were tried for Miss Ward's murder in 1992, but acquitted. Mr Makallah was a key prosecution witness at that trial.

The case continues.



Julie Ward: killed on Kenyan game reserve



The bust of Edward Salter, bought by the Ashmolean

Sculpture saved by art charity

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

AN IMPORTANT 18th-century sculpture was saved for the nation yesterday when it was acquired by the Ashmolean Museum for £326,000.

Without the intervention of the art charity, the National Art Collections Fund (NACF), the sculpture would have gone abroad. The Boston Museum of Fine Arts is believed to have been among collectors clamouring to buy it if the Oxford museum had been unable to raise the money.

The marble image of a six-year-old boy is by Michael Rysbrack (1694-1770), the Antwerp-born master who established himself in the 1720s as the most eminent sculptor working in England. He remains an artist revered for his technical virtuosity.

The sculpture of the boy — particularly rare in that it was not created posthumously — represents Edward Salter, who went on to become Chaplain to Henry, Duke of Gloucester.

Its purchase would not have been possible without the NACF, which is becoming increasingly frustrated that it is almost singlehandedly saving the nation's treasures. The fund is at the forefront of critics of the Heritage Lottery Fund over its decision to abandon works of art in favour of other causes because its own funding has been slashed.

When the lottery fund rejected the Ashmolean's application for £120,000, the NACF was forced to increase its offer from £90,000 to £170,000.

Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the NACF, which has been saving works for public collections since 1903, said: "This is the fifth time that we have increased our grant to secure an outstanding work of art which the Heritage Lottery Fund has not been able to support.

"If action isn't taken soon, future generations will wonder why on earth the opportunities were lost and why there was so little public and political outcry at the time."

☐ Heritage groups are opposing plans by the Ashmolean to drape large advertising banners outside the museum. They are concerned about the impact on the architecture.

Owen embraces Eurosceptics

Pro-Europe but anti-euro group says it would share platform with hardline sceptics, writes James Landale

LORD OWEN, head of the new pro-European but anti-single currency lobby group, admitted at its launch yesterday that he was prepared to share a platform with Tory Eurosceptics.

New Europe is designed to provide a voice for pro-Europeans opposed to the euro who do not want to link themselves with right-of-centre Eurosceptics. Lord Owen, the former Labour Foreign Secretary who led the breakaway Social Democratic Party, insisted the group was deliberately distinguishing itself from existing Eurosceptics. "We are quite unashamedly and unavowedly supporters of the European Union," he said.

But he did not rule out sharing the platform with anti-EU Tory MPs such as Bill Cash during a referendum campaign. "If I'm opposed to the single currency at that stage, I would be ready to join with others to campaign," he said.

New Europe, in its statement of principles, also admits that it intends to "work closely" with *Business for Sterling*, an anti-euro grouping of industry and City interests.

The launch came as the Government began to put into practice plans announced last week to prepare Britain for potential membership. Stephen Byers, the Trade and Industry Secretary, told a pro-Europe business conference that he wanted the Government's enterprise fund to be paid in euros. Businesses will also be able to pay patent fees in euros and submit accounts in euros.

The advisory council of New Europe comprises 14 political figures, businessmen, economists and journalists who believe that Britain's membership should not be seen as inevitable. They said: "We do not say never but we cannot foresee, at present, a change in circumstances that would persuade us of the case for joining. We believe that there are significant economic dangers for Britain in joining the euro that would seriously compromise our competitiveness. We are convinced that Britain will continue to flourish within the EU but *outside euroland*."

Lord Owen said: "There is a different way for Europe, which is more decentralised, more diverse, which is compatible with the treaties. We think that is a natural place for Britain."The advisory council also includes Lord Healey, the former deputy Labour leader, who said: "You don't have to be xenophobic, nationalistic or right-wing to worry about the single currency."

Lord Prior, the former Tory Cabinet minister, said: "I would not have broken with my Europhile friends if I did not believe that staying out of the euro is a matter of supreme importance."

Mary Ann Sieghart, Assistant Editor of *The Times*, who is also on the council, said she had never wanted to join the Eurosceptic "club". But once she discovered other pro-Europeans with "doubts about a single currency", she thought it right to "break cover". Other members of the advisory council include Roger Bootle, managing director of Capital Economics; Ruth Lea, head of the *policy unit at the Institute of* Directors; Sir Ewen Fergusson, former Ambassador to Paris; Martin Taylor, former chief executive of Barclays Bank; Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover, former chair*man of J Sainsbury; and Janet* Bush, New Europe director and until recently Economics Correspondent of *The Times*.

The new group was greeted sceptically by pro-Europeans. One said: "They are just trying *to dress up the anti-euro camp* and make them more respectable." Colin Sharman, chairman of KPMG International, said: "Being in the EU but not being in the euro is roughly the equivalent of being half-*pregnant. The proposition real*ly is half-baked and business will not wear it."

□ New Europe website: *www.new-europe.co.uk* E-mail: *info@new-europe.co.uk*



RICHARD CANNON

Single-minded about the single currency: Lord Prior, Mary Ann Sieghart and Lord Owen at the launch of New Europe

Business, page 31

MPs in attack on ministers' arrogance

MPs are expected to demand more independence for select committees after growing complaints about ministerial arrogance (Philip Webster writes).

Ministers are also being warned against trying to intimidate backbenchers in an attempt to get an easy ride from the committees. The chairmen of all 27 select committees are being urged to put forward their ideas for reform to the Liaison Select Committee.There was particular anger recently over the Foreign Affairs Select Committee report on arms to Africa which was rubbished by Downing Street before it was published.

Conservative as well as Labour chairmen are calling for the whips to lose control of appointing members of the committees, which is seen as the key way of the executive *retaining control*.

Lords need more power, not less

Peter RIDDELL ON POLITICS

The Wakeham commission on the future of the House of Lords that met for the first time yesterday has a choice. It can either deliver the minimalist package which the Government wants, or it can think boldly.

The Government, and most Labour MPs, would like something not very different from the present House but without hereditary peers. It would remain a revising chamber, and might have a special role in relation to devolved assemblies, Europe and the Human Rights Act. But that would be to miss a big opportunity.

The central issue is powers. The Government's White Paper addresses the paradox that the Lords possesses theoretical powers almost as great as the Commons (apart from financial Bills) but observes self-denying ordinances. The White Paper suggests that the current understandings about self-restraint might be institutionalised, leaving the powers intact but restricting the circumstances when they might be used, or the theoretically available powers might be reduced, though they might be used more often.

This passage was frequently quoted in the two-day, 90-plus speaker debate in the Lords last week. This was the usual mixture of the interesting, the reflective, the confused, the complacent and the downright daft. Lord Belhaven and Stenton, whose title dates to 1647, offered the thought that "democracy is new and comparatively untried. We do not know what will come of it over the decades and centuries to come". Lord Norrie, with a mere 42-year-old title, argued that hereditary peers sat by right of custom, a principle of English property law.

On a more serious level, Lords Cranborne and Richard, the last two Leaders of the Lords, focused on powers. As Lord Cranborne argued: "Paradoxically, a more authoritative Lords would help the Commons to perform better by forcing it to legislate better and to hold the Government to account more rigorously."

Lord Richard, in the best contribution from the Labour side, noted that the lack of legitimacy means that the Lords cannot perform as effectively as it should. So "in this country we have virtually a unicameral system". On his view, "the aim of reform should be to strengthen the second chamber to the point where it has the legitimacy vis-à-vis the Government of the day to carry out its functions properly but not to threaten the position of the Commons". There should continue to be independent members and no one party should be able to command a majority. But such a second chamber would be bound to become more troublesome to the Commons.

There is also a strong case, as Lord Lamont of Lerwick argued, for the Lords to be given the role of "constitutional long stop" — with the right to insist, by a qualified majority of perhaps two thirds, that constitutional Bills should be considered by a referendum. As Lord Lamont concluded: "If this House is to be liberated from its inhibitions, it should not be afraid to demand more powers." The Wakeham commission now has the chance to make a reformed second chamber a central part of a new constitutional settlement rather than just produce a political fix.



Police chiefs 'are shelving racial issues'

Government study criticises lack of action on relations with ethnic minorities, Stewart Tendler reports

CHIEF constables were accused yesterday of shelving race relations reforms and ignoring calls by the Home Office to take the issue seriously.

The attack came in a study by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary to check on progress made after a report by the inspectorate in 1997 warned forces that they must modernise their race and community relations policies.

The new study drawn up Dan Crompton, an inspector of constabulary specialising in race issues, found "a lack of visibility by chief officers on the issue of community and race relations" and that "progress has been less than satisfactory with many recommendations [of the initial report] largely sidelined and few forces placing the issue high on their agenda".

The study, *Winning the Race: Policing Plural Communities Revisited*, found that less than half the forces ran checks on racism among staff; that more than a quarter run no checks on the loss of staff from ethnic backgrounds; and that some officers used racist language. Only a quarter of forces were found to have carried out a survey across the whole force on community and race relations work.

The study also found that police officers were not penalised in promotion exams for racist, sexist or homophobic behaviour, and that there was no provision for "negative marking" in national exams for sergeant and inspector ranks. The exams include written sections and tests in mock incidents.

The report also found that training in awareness of ethnic differences, the investigation of race crime and the use of stop-and-search policies have all been marginalised.

The Association of Chief Police Officers is praised for its national work on race and community relations, but the report said that too often individual chief constables have ignored ACPO work.

Yesterday Mr Crompton said that he was disappointed that forces had failed to take action after the original report, despite the fact that they knew he would return to review their work and that the Macpherson report could be highly critical of police.

He gave warning that, unless forces recognised the importance of community relations, communities could become antagonistic and difficult to police.

John Newing, the president of the ACPO and the chief constable of the Derbyshire force, acknowledged the report's recognition that some good work was being done, but admitted there was still a great deal more to do.

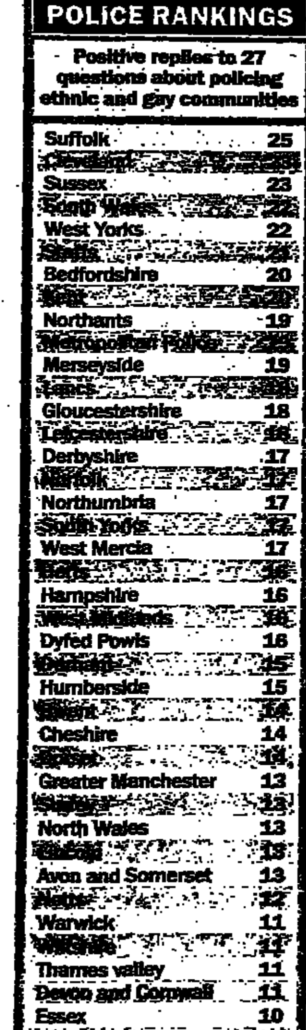
He said that ACPO was preparing a racial diversity strategy drawing on the best work going on in all forces, aimed at eliminating racism through education, training, positive management and "stringent disciplinary measures".

The Police Federation of England and Wales, which represents 125,000 lower ranks, said that officers were responding positively to race issues.

Fred Broughton, the federation's chairman, said that progress had been hampered by chief officers focusing "slavishly" on performance targets for solving crimes such as burglary and car theft, efficiency savings and withdrawing officers from street patrols.

Mr Broughton said that the majority of the public still held police in high regard, despite the results of the Macpherson report.

The National Black Police Association said that the new report's conclusions were not surprising, and that there was a need for immediate improvement.



POLICE RANKINGS

Positive replies to 27 questions about policing ethnic and gay communities

Force	Replies
Suffolk	25
Cleveland	23
Sussex	23
South Wales	22
West Yorks	22
Staffs	21
Bedfordshire	20
Kent	20
Northants	19
Metropolitan Police	19
Merseyside	19
Lancs	18
Gloucestershire	18
Leicestershire	18
Derbyshire	17
Norfolk	17
Northumbria	17
South Yorks	17
West Mercia	17
Herts	16
Hampshire	16
West Midlands	16
Dyfed Powis	16
Durham	15
Humberside	15
Gwent	14
Cheshire	14
Dorset	14
Greater Manchester	13
Surrey	13
North Wales	13
Lincs	13
Avon and Somerset	13
Notts	12
Warwick	11
Wiltshire	11
Thames valley	11
Devon and Cornwall	11
Essex	10
Cambridgeshire	10
City of London	9
Cumbria	7
North Yorks	6

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PETER JORDAN/PA



Working together: fewer than half of the forces surveyed carried out checks on racism among their staff

Small target at a big risk of attack

By Tim Jones

CUMBRIA has a tiny ethnic minority community but its members are suffering an increasing number of racist attacks.

The police force in the largely rural county has failed, however, to respond to the problem.

In the Inspector of Constabulary's report, Cumbria Constabulary admits to having taken no action on 20 of the 29 questions posed in the survey on race-related policing, and says it has no community and race-relations strategy.

Colin Phillips, the Chief Constable, in a bland press release issued yesterday, said: "We are always looking to improve and we will do all we can to ensure that we demonstrate fairness and equality in the way we use our powers."

Out of a population of 490,145 in Cumbria, there are only 492 black people, 492 Asian people and 984 people of other ethnic minority origins. They mostly have homes and businesses in Carlisle or along the coast in towns such as Workington.

The latest Home Office figures show that the number of racial incidents in Cumbria rose to 46 in 1997-98, compared with 17 in 1993-94. This means that a member of an ethnic minority in Cumbria has a one in 50 chance of being attacked by racists.

Mark Johnson, a race-relations researcher at De Montfort University, said: "The police in Cumbria need to recognise that race may be a motive for an attack even when there is no prima-facie evidence."

Dr Johnson, director of the Mary Seacole unit which conducts research on racism and is named after a black heroine who was a nurse during the Crimean War, said: "Some racists are not prepared to contribute to their communities and find it easier instead to hurl abuse at people from the ethnic community who are prepared to work hard."

Met wins praise for its progress

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

THE Metropolitan Police and its Commissioner, Sir Paul Condon, won praise for their race relations strategy yesterday, less than a week after the force was heavily criticised by the Stephen Lawrence inquiry report.

Scotland Yard is one of four police forces commended for progress on race relations and good leadership by a national study. The others are Bedfordshire, West Yorkshire and South Wales.

All three are in the top ten for racial awareness of the 43 forces in England and Wales, according to a league table drawn up by *Winning the Race: Policing Plural Communities Revisited*, produced by the Inspectorate of Constabulary. The study charts progress in race relations since a report published in October 1997. A team led by Dan Crompton, a former Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire, visited a sample of 14 forces.

They also wrote to every other force in England and Wales to see how they had responded to the original report's recommendations.

Cleveland, Hertfordshire and Sir Paul's force won praise for work on forward thinking about population changes. Leicestershire was also commended by Mr Crompton, as was South Wales for training policy.

But Merseyside and the West Midlands police, both big urban forces, were criticised for their overall lack of progress. The survey showed that the West Midlands force had no race and community relations strategy although it has the second biggest ethnic-minority community after London. Merseyside did not have policies to support staff from ethnic minorities.

Mr Crompton also criticised Cumbria and North Yorkshire, both forces with relatively small ethnic-minority communities, for their failure to adopt new policies.

NEWS IN BRIEF

GP denies five more murders

The family doctor accused of murdering 15 patients denied killing five of them yesterday. Harold Shipman, 53, answered "not guilty" at Manchester Crown Court as the five charges were put to him while his wife, Primrose, watched without apparent emotion.

Dr Shipman has already denied killing four other patients on his panel at his surgery in Hyde, Greater Manchester, and forging the will of one of them. He has been committed for trial at Crown Court on those charges.The rest of the charges will be considered at a committal hearing next week. All the cases relate to middle-aged or elderly women from the Hyde area. His trial is due to start on October 4.

Pool death fine

Michael Westmore, the owner of the Pentire Hotel in Newquay, Cornwall, has been fined £8,000 after a six-year-old holidaymaker died in the hotel pool in 1997. Bodmin magistrates were told that the water was too cloudy for the boy to be seen drowning.

Eton funeral

Eton schoolboys and family friends packed into Christ Church, Esher, Surrey, for the funeral of Nicholas Taylor, found hanged in his room at the college. The order of service for the 15-year-old cricket fan was entitled "Batting Order for Our Darling Nick".

Letter bomb

A woman aged 18 and her baby were taken to hospital suffering from shock after a letter bomb exploded at their home in Pitsea, Essex, shattering windows. Bomb disposal experts searched the area. Two male occupants were not injured in the incident.

Snail handicap

A rare snail, the 2mm *Vertigo augustior*, threatens to thwart plans for a multimillion-pound golf complex designed by Greg Norman at Doonbeg, Co Clare. Environmentalists have launched three appeals against the decision to approve the development.

Bulletins ready to fly in battle of teatime news

Channel 5 takes up new position before ratings war with BBC and ITN, reports Carol Midgley



PETER J JORDAN / PA

The front line: Trevor McDonald in ITN's new-look studio and, below, Kirsty Young and Huw Edwards



CHANNEL 5 marshalled its forces yesterday in readiness to join the battle of the teatime news programmes. The station announced that it would bring forward its 7pm programme by an hour, going head to head against the BBC's *Six O'Clock News*.

The two will fight for the attentions of viewers, hoping to retain them at 6.30pm when ITN joins the fray with Trevor McDonald and its replacement for *News at Ten*, the *Evening News*, which starts on Monday.

For the BBC and Channel 5, which won permission yesterday for its *5 News* to occupy the 6pm slot from March 15, the conflict will be as much a war of the sexes as of news values and presentation. Channel 5 is relying on its presenter Kirsty Young's appeal to lure viewers away from the BBC, whose revamped bulletin will be fronted by Huw Edwards from May. "We're banking on the fact that more people would like to see Kirsty's face at teatime than Huw Edwards's," an insider said.

The BBC, however, is confident that Edwards, a 37-year-old Welshman, will soon establish himself as a "housewives' choice" with his affable manner. He was chosen to replace a group of newscasters in an overhaul of BBC bulletins.

The Channel 5 insider claimed that only months ago the BBC had tried to poach Young, 30, to front the *Six O'Clock News*. But it will be difficult for *5 News* to make an impression on its rival's ratings. It has only 400,000 to 500,000 viewers daily compared with 5.8 million for the BBC's programme.

A BBC spokesman said: "It is very flattering that ITV is changing its schedules because of the *Six O'Clock News*. They are obviously very worried about our relaunch in May but they are reducing choice for viewers in their chase for ratings."

Dawn Airey, director of programmes for Channel 5, said: "The move of *News at Ten* and the relaunch of *Channel 4 News* have made all broadcasters examine the scheduling of their news. Our research indicated that our audience would like us to offer them the evening news as early as possible."

ITN is also planning an onslaught of colour to enhance its bulletin's appeal. The traditional blues of *News at Ten* are being dropped for oranges, reds and purples, creating a "familiar yet modern feel". The design is by Simon Jago, who revamped the *Channel 4 News* studio last year and created the set for *5 News*.

A spokesman for ITN said the evening news programme would retain, with Trevor McDonald, some of its traditions, such as the "bongs" and the famous "And finally" item at the end. A late-night news at 11pm will be fronted by Dermot Murnaghan.

The spokesman said that the channel had wanted a complete change of look, but added: "We still have a feature of blue through the entire background."

Nigel Dacre, Editor of ITN, said: "In many ways, the spirit of *News At Ten* will live on in the new programmes but, at the same time, the new schedule has allowed us to modernise and revitalise our approach."

Murnaghan will stand in for McDonald when he is away, and Katie Derham, the ITN media correspondent, will stand in for Murnaghan.

☐ When Trevor McDonald closes with a final "And finally" on Friday, Sky News will leap into what it sees as a market gap by launching its own 10pm news programme. BSkyB, an associate company of News International, owner of *The Times*, yesterday announced that it will start *Sky News at Ten* on March 8.

Bafta sets the scene for Oscars sequel

By Dalya Alberge
Arts Correspondent

THE British films *Shakespeare in Love* and *Elizabeth* dominate nominations for the 51st British Academy Film Awards. In a virtual repeat of the Oscar nominations, the two films are named in almost every category.

In the shortlist announced yesterday by the actress Kate Winslet at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, *Shakespeare in Love* and *Elizabeth* are nominated for 15 and 12 awards respectively. They include, among others, best direction, best actress, best actor and best film.

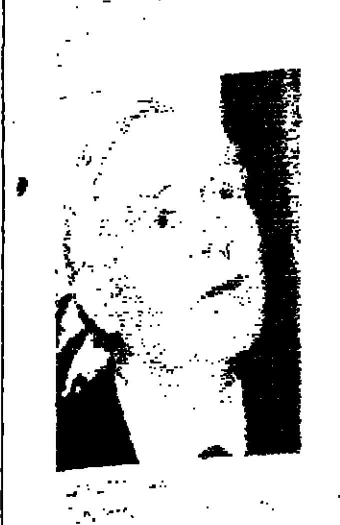
Geoffrey Rush is nominated as best supporting actor in both films. *Shakespeare in Love* also secures a best supporting actor nomination for Tom Wilkinson, as well as nominations for best actor for Joseph Fiennes, best supporting actress for Dame Judi Dench and best screenplay for Sir Tom Stoppard and Marc Norman.

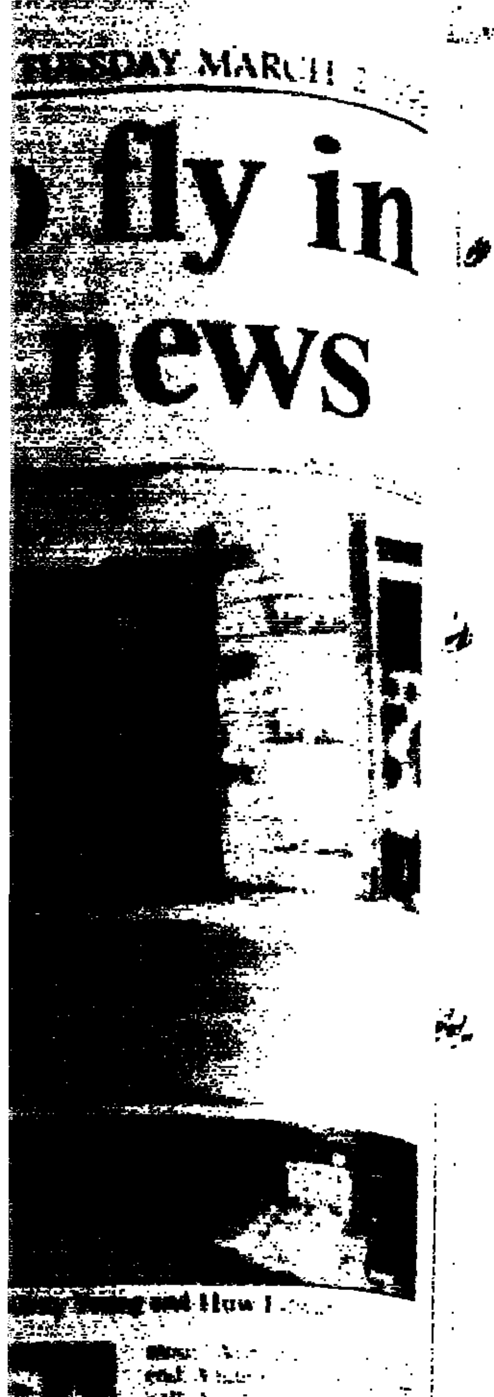
There are a number of nominations for *Little Voice*, including best actor for Michael Caine, whose performance as a seedy nightclub agent was overlooked in the Oscar nominations. Brenda Blethyn, also up for an Oscar, is nominated for best supporting actress title for *Little Voice*. Jane Horrocks, nominated for best actress in the same film, is competing against three further Oscar nominees: Emily Watson for *Hilary and Jackie*, Gwyneth Paltrow for *Shakespeare in Love*, and Cate Blanchett for *Elizabeth*.

Steven Spielberg's film, *Saving Private Ryan*, and *The Truman Show* are the other films shortlisted in the best film category.

Ms Winslet said: "This year it really does feel like it's been a great year for British film." Tim Angel, chairman of Bafta, said: "I believe today's nominations are a true reflection of the state of the British industry."

The Bafta awards ceremony will be held at the Business Design Centre in North London on April 11, and be televised that evening on BBC1. The Oscar winners are announced on March 21.





We still need Smiley's people says Le Carré

The Cold War is over but the spy writer believes the Secret Service has a vital role, reports Michael Evans

SPIES should not come in from the cold, despite East-West *détente*, the spy writer John le Carré said. The former MI6 intelligence officer declared in a rare lecture that spies are needed more than ever.

Le Carré, who flourished as an author during the Cold War era of espionage and intrigue, said that when the world's power blocs were split between East and West, spying was an easier business. Now, with the former Soviet Union fragmented, Britain's spies had a tough challenge to keep pace with the proliferation of problems in many of the world's smaller countries.

"There is plenty of scope for intelligence work," he said during a lecture at the Liverpool Unity Theatre. "In the future, I think the great burden of intelligence work will be counter-terrorist, from wherever the terrorist threat comes. It will also be concerned with international crime on a grand scale."

The author, whose latest novel, *Single & Single*, has just been published, worked for both MI5 and MI6.

Last month he ended a long-standing mystery when he revealed that George Smiley, his most famous fictional hero, celebrated in such books as *Smiley's People*, was not modelled on the former MI6 chief Sir Maurice Oldfield, as had been supposed. He said that the character had been partly based on the late John Bingham, the 7th Baron Clanmorris. Bingham, who served with MI6, was known in the intelligence community as "Lord Clandestine".

In the literary lecture, Le Carré said: "The secret services simply have to remain responsive and responsible and very much under the control of parliamentary democracy. I don't think there is a case for saying they should not exist any more.

"We expect them to find out who is going to blow us up next and if they don't do it, we say they are inefficient, but we don't say that we should abolish them."

MI6, like other sections of the security and intelligence world, has suffered cuts since the end of the Cold War and now has an annual budget of about £150 million and a staff of fewer than 2,000.

Le Carré, whose real name is David Cornwell, poured scorn on Western governments that had allowed the Cold War to continue for so long. He said: "We failed to embrace the former Soviet empire. We failed to give them their dignity.

"Instead, there was a shameful expectation on our side, particularly the American side, that if we gave them enough pairs of jeans and enough rock music and had McDonald's there, somehow they would find private enterprise for themselves.

"They didn't do that. They found crime."

Le Carré: said spies must fight terrorism and crime



STEFANO RELLANDINI/REUTERS

Anna Molinari is fêted on the catwalk after her Blumarine show in Milan yesterday

Milan shows no fear when it comes to fur

FROM DEBORAH BRETT IN MILAN

ITALIAN fashion has never succumbed to anti-fur pressure and the women of Milan refuse to venture out in winter without their fur coats.

Anna Molinari's diffusion label, Blumarine, continued the love affair with a show yesterday that had mink trimmings on scoop-neck jumpers, coat collars, jumper cuffs, even inside parka hoods. The soft-sell came in every colour — from candy floss pink and sky blue to icicle white.

Blumarine girls still haven't grown up and yesterday looked as if they had been trawling through their mother's dressing room — in bright-red lips and green eyeshadow thickly applied. The year of influence was impossible to pin down: Molinari had decided to pick and choose from Twenties flapper girl, Fifties prom queen and Seventies rock chick.

Giorgio Armani was also in age-defying mood yesterday: at the age of 64, he has made his younger line even younger. There was not a suit in sight, let alone his trademark beige, at the Emporio Armani show. Instead, next winter, fans of Mr Minimalist will be in a pared-down version of urban chic.

The theme may have been colour, with an abundance of aqua, turquoise, sea green and red, but this was only for accessories: the core clothes were in every shade of grey.

With the emphasis on sportswear, there were attachable hoods, Velcro-fastening trousers, and leather jackets with elongated arm zips. Accessories for the urban warrior included shoes made from thick elastic strips and pouch bags.

Armani's signature detailing came only towards the end of the show, with beading — normally seen edging scarves and jacket lapels — sewn in strips to the top edge of nude bodystockings.

Plankton could help to reverse global warming

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

FERTILISING the sea with iron filings dramatically accelerates the growth of plant plankton, which absorb large amounts of greenhouse gases, an experiment in the Southern Ocean has shown.

Researchers who had spent the month spreading filings over 19 square miles of Antarctic waters 2,500 miles southwest of New Zealand returned to Wellington yesterday enthusiastic about the results.

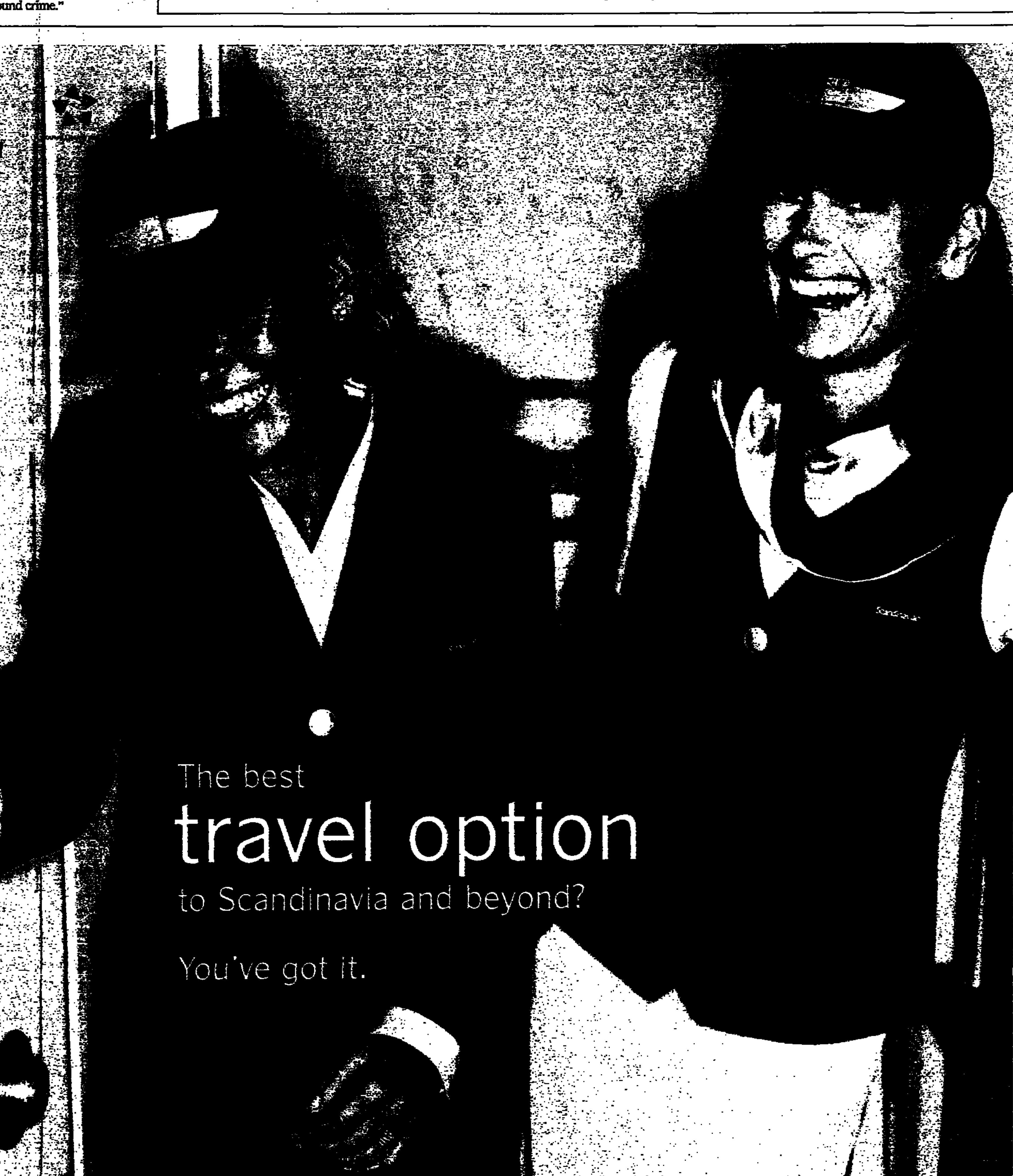
Rob Murdoch, of the New Zealand National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, said: "Not only did the numbers of phytoplankton bloom extensively but they were responsible for absorption of a significantly greater amount of carbon dioxide during the study period compared with the seas outside the area," he said. "The plankton in the growing patch also produced significant quantities of gases known to be important in cloud formation."

The aim of the research was to see whether the filings would replenish stocks of plankton, which form the foundation of the ocean food chain, and to discover whether the microscopic plants captured excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and contributed to cloud build-up.

The late John Martin, an American oceanographer, theorised in 1995 that phytoplankton needed iron in order to take nitrogen and phosphate from seawater, just as farm crops need trace minerals such as zinc and manganese.

Subsequent experiments showed that half a ton of iron filings triggered 30-fold to 40-fold increases in plankton stocks over areas of up to 193 square miles. This resulted in up to 9,000 tons of carbon dioxide being "locked up", and a three-fold increase in dimethyl sulphide particles, which have a key role in cloud formation.

Scientists believe that if the fertilisation could be done on a large enough scale in the Southern Ocean it could reduce the concentration of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere by between 6 per cent and 21 per cent, significantly cooling the planet.









US appeals for calm after raids on Israel border

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE United States yesterday sent urgent diplomatic messages to Israel, Syria and Lebanon, urging restraint in the new crisis along Israel's northern border in an attempt to prevent tension in the region escalating.

The messages were sanctioned by Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, and reflected the gravity with which Washington views the situation after the killing on Sunday of an Israeli general, a subsequent cross-border rocket attack and Israel's vow of retaliation "by land, sea and air" against the Iranian-backed Hezbollah guerrillas.

The American intervention came as Israel's security Cabinet met in emergency session and vowed instant and widescale action if Hezbollah fired more rockets into northern Galilee in retaliation for punishing Israeli strikes. Those strikes were launched deep into Lebanon after the killing of General Erez Gerstein, two soldiers and Ilan Roeh, 32. One of Israel's most famous war correspondents, Mr Roeh was buried yesterday at a funeral attended by thousands.

Israeli officials, mindful of the American call and damaging international publicity in 1996, caused by Operation Grapes of Wrath — Israel's last widespread Lebanon offensive in which some 200 people were killed — said that the Israel Defence Force would not step up attacks if the guerrillas refrained from firing rockets into Israel.

That decision was not popular with many Israelis living in the northern area. They left shelters and sealed rooms at 2pm yesterday after an "all clear" ended an alert that had lasted 24 hours and ruined the start of the festival of Purim. Thousands fled homes and hotels to spend the holiday out of Katyusha rocket range. Many who stayed in the bleak town of Kiryat Shmona urged the Government to launch a massive offensive.

After a three-hour Cabinet session, Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, announced that Israel was ready to strike at more Hezbollah targets, but refused to order the immediate offensive demanded by some Cabinet members, including Avigdor Kahalani, his Interior Security Minister. There is a threat of escalating violence with Syria as President Assad keeps 35,000 troops in Lebanon.

The death of seven Israelis in a week has made Israel's Lebanon policy a key election issue, with Yossi Beilin, a leading member of the opposition Labour Party, heading a campaign for a swift withdrawal.

MOHAMED ZATARI / AP



A Shia Muslim guerrilla preparing yesterday for the threatened Israeli offensive

Civilians in buffer zone wait stoically for big offensive

FROM NICHOLAS BLANFORD IN TIBNINE

THE war-weary residents of south Lebanon were nervously braced for the onslaught of the Israeli military machine yesterday but the threat of a massive assault against the Hezbollah organisation failed to materialise.

Hours after Brigadier-General Erez Gerstein was killed by Hezbollah guerrillas on Sunday, warplanes staged air raids in frontline areas as Israel vowed to unleash an air, sea and ground offensive.

Tension remains high throughout the occupied border zone. The skies above Tibnine were filled with the roar of Israeli F16 aircraft and the buzz of pilotless observation planes.

In the village of Siddiqine, Mehdi Zaarour, 48, said: "It cannot get any worse for us than it already is here . . . we are used to being shelled by the Israelis, it is a daily occurrence."

Siddiqine is near the village of Qana, where 107 civilians were killed when Israel shelled a UN base during the 16-day Operation Grapes of Wrath in April 1996. "Forty-eight people from Siddiqine were killed in Qana. What more can Israel do to us?" said Mr Zaarour.

Schools were closed yesterday and children were told to remain close to village bomb shelters.

In the village of Majdal Silm, which frequently bears the brunt of Israeli shelling, almost half the residents had fled in fear of an offensive.

"We are afraid [and] it's very tense," said Nahla Salloum, 44, one of several women watching over children outside the village's bomb shelter. "I will stay because this is my village, my land and my country. The Israelis will never force me to leave."

Maryam Zahwi, 20, said that Israel would never defeat the Lebanese. "They have their planes and missiles, but we have our resistance and our faith," she said.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Religious riots in Indonesia kill ten

Ambon, Indonesia: At least ten people died as new clashes between Christians and Muslims rocked the Indonesian island of Ambon. Six people were tortured to death in one clash and another four were killed as security forces opened fire near a mosque. The official Antara news agency said the first deaths occurred after homemade bombs exploded. The agency added that low-ranking policemen had allegedly incited the mob.

Local journalists said the other incident happened at about dawn as Christians attacked the city's eastern Batu Merah district and Muslims fought back. Security forces then arrived and opened fire, they said. One witness said the police opened fire without warning on Muslims leaving the al-Huda mosque.

General Wiranto, the armed forces' commander, has launched a crack anti-riot force to quell what he called the most "brutal rioting" in Indonesia's history. *(Reuters)*

Cuba dissidents on trial

Four of Cuba's most prominent political dissidents, including Vladimiro Roca, went on trial behind closed doors in Havana on charges of sedition stemming from the publication of a document in 1997 that criticised government policies (David Adams writes). Tight security was enforced to keep away demonstrators, and dissident groups in Cuba say at least 34 opposition activists have been rounded up by police recently to limit any possible protest. Others are under virtual house arrest.

Greek Ocalan protest



The statue of a Greek philosopher outside Athens University, right, has been blindfolded by art students to show their support for Abdullah Ocalan, the Kurdish leader. Turkey is to allow a Norwegian parliamentary delegation to attend Mr Ocalan's treason trial after turning down other international requests. Lars Rise, a Norwegian MP, said the invitation was made by Uluc Gurkan, the vice-president of Turkey's national assembly, on condition that the Norwegians did not call themselves observers. *(Reuters)*

Sydney terror warning

Sydney: The Islamic terrorist, Osama bin Laden, may target the Sydney Olympics next year because of Australia's friendship with the United States, Louis Freeh, the director of the FBI, said (David Watts writes). A large contingent of American athletes and spectators could make the Games an attractive target, said Mr Freeh, who is in Australia advising the Government on anti-terrorism and anti-drug strategies. Australia has been free of Middle East-related terrorism.

Rebels 'slaughter 1,000'

Freetown: About 1,000 civilians died, mostly murdered by rebels, during a six-week Revolutionary United Front occupation of Waterloo, a town near the Sierra Leonean capital, according to Ansumana Kargbo, a headman. He said most of those who died had fled into the bush when the rebels were chased from the capital last month. Troops from Ecomog, the Nigerian-led regional intervention force, backed by civil defence groups, retook Freetown last month and recaptured Waterloo last week. *(AFP)*

Mines treaty enforced



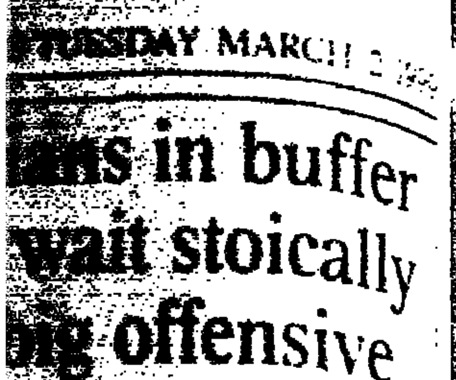
Oslo: Jody Williams, left, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997, urged all nations to ratify an anti-landmine treaty as it came into force yesterday, and hailed her award as a boost for the cause. Mrs Williams, co-ordinator of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, said that 134 countries had signed and 65 had ratified the treaty, aimed at removing an estimated 100 million landmines in at least 60 countries. The treaty, concluded here in September 1997, was opened for signature in Ottawa the following December. *(Reuters)*

Seven die in rough seas

Lisbon: Seven crewmen died and one was missing last night after they abandoned their crippled cargo ship in rough seas off the Azores in the North Atlantic. The three remaining crew survived. A passing Japanese merchant vessel picked up four crew from a liferaft. The men had abandoned the *Sky Bird*, a container ship, officials said. However, one of the men in the raft was dead. Six other crew who jumped into the sea were found dead in the water, while a search went on for the missing man. *(AP)*









Kosovo victims find death in bitter sanctuary



Anthony Loyd, at the Llaka ravine, hears echoes of broken promises as villagers battle to survive winter onslaught

FAITH in the West is melting with the winter snow for the civilians of Gjare. Stranded by fighting on the precipitous slopes above the Llaka river, the 350 ethnic Albanian villagers, 170 of whom are younger than 18, are scratching an existence in the open and freezing in the sub-zero night temperatures.

The international community's empty threats and promises are little more than bitter memories.

Two days ago, Kosovo Liberation Army guerrillas moved into the area near their small community, about six miles north of the Kosovo-Macedonian border along the main Pristina-Skopje highway.

A flurry of skirmishes in the preceding days had already robbed several hundred people of their homes.

On Sunday morning, four Serbian police drove into Gjare. The captain was killed and his three colleagues were wounded in the burst of gunfire that met them.

The Serb response was predictable and unforgiving.

Anti-aircraft guns and scores of infantry saturated the area with fire in a six-hour attack. Caught in the middle, Gjare's civilians fled a day's journey to the Llaka ravine, where they remain — too frightened to return home.

"We have ended up here through no choice of our own," Shiqrije, an Albanian woman, said. "If it snows again we can only continue to stay here. I am afraid the Serbs would kill us if we returned home. The way I see it, I'd rather be dead in the snow than killed by the Serbs."

After previous massacres in Kosovo, the terror and uncertainty of these people is very real.

Shiqrije, a mother of six, spoke with the life of her youngest child, a six-month-old girl, fading away beside her. "Look," she continued, pointing to the comatose porcelain face of the child, "my baby is dying. She is too cold. There is not enough food. She cannot even open her eyes any more."

Death was close to many there: the pregnant woman who lay sick and glassy-eyed on a blanket of straw (she was due to give birth three days ago); the 82-year-old man sprawled in the mud; Shiqrije's daughter, and others.

Last October a deal was agreed between the American special envoy, Richard Holbrooke, and Yugoslavia's President Milosevic, aimed at halting the exodus of refugees. It was backed by the threat of Nato intervention, and stipulated that all Serb security forces should withdraw to barracks and abide by a ceasefire.

Violations of the pact led to an escalation of Nato threats in the new year, and latterly the stalled negotiations at Rambouillet.

The refugees recall those promises with fatalism. "What can I say? What can I think?" asked Shiqrije's husband. "If Nato wanted to intervene it would have done so. I didn't believe the October promise, and I don't believe them now. The only thing left is for some of us to die here. Some will survive to carry the fight on. Maybe at the end we'll win something."

Shortly after midday, two vehicles from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, sent to Kosovo last autumn to verify the October accord, arrived on the scene.

The monitors, members of the 1,200 OSCE staff in the province, were well-intentioned, but appeared unable to help. They could not transport two of the sicker babies, taken by journalists to Gjare for evacuation, to the nearby hospital at Kacanik, for fear of aggravating the Serb police. Their task, after all, was only to monitor, as the afternoon chill set in once more.



DAVID BRAUCHLI / AP

A child from Gjare huddles in a makeshift hammock tied to trees in the ravine refuge

New Nato threat to Belgrade

Washington: Nato will attack Belgrade's forces if they launch an offensive against "innocent villagers", William Cohen, the US Defence Secretary, said yesterday. Javier Solana, the Nato Secretary-General, again asked both sides in the Kosovo crisis to make peace with each other. When asked if Nato was ready to strike Serb military targets before a March 15 deadline for negotiations to resume, he said "yes". *(AFP)*

Bonn warned of cash flight by industry

Lafontaine's tax plan may drive investment to Britain, writes Roger Boyes

Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, is facing a revolt by big-name companies which are threatening to transfer investment abroad unless Bonn overhauls its tax reform plans.

The latest challenge came from RWE, the German energy and industrial group, which said the heavier tax burden — proposed by Oskar Lafontaine, the Finance Minister, and due to be approved this week — would make the company think twice about investing in a brown-coal mining project in the Ruhr.

"It is a question of at least 14,000 jobs," said Dieter Schweer, a spokesman. "If the investment position is no longer attractive, we will examine every possibility of switching our investments abroad." Since RWE is a powerful industrial player, with interests well beyond the energy sector, the threat is being taken seriously.

It comes on top of a broadside from Allianz, the country's largest insurance company. The tax reforms penalising insurance companies would have a devastating effect on its profits. Since the company has extensive foreign interests — 60,000 out of its 100,000 employees work outside Germany — its headquarters could be shifted abroad to London or Zurich. London was clearly in the mind of Henning Schulte-Noelle, the chief executive, when he suggested in an interview that the business could operate "just as well in another country of the European Union".

If Allianz left Germany so, it can be assumed, would its German competitors. And the disgruntlement of the two businesses reflects broader unhappiness throughout German industry. Corporation tax in Germany is at 45 per cent, though this can be reduced with clever bookkeeping. In Britain it stands at 30 per cent.

RWE's complaint is that the plan would force utility companies to pay taxes on capital reserves. Dietmar Kuhnt, RWE's chief executive, said — in trying to sway parliamentarians to vote against the tax reform — that the changes would impose about £9 billion of extra taxation on utility companies.

The discontent has been picked up. The mass circulation *Bild* newspaper yesterday described Herr Lafontaine as a bogeyman — taking a leaf out of *The Sun*'s book — and accused him of driving capital away while at the same time making common cause with the ex-communists of the Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS).

The economy is beginning to look anaemic. Recent figures show gross domestic product fell slightly in the last quarter of 1998. A similar trend for the first three months of this year would put Germany in recession.

The number of unemployed has risen by 560,000 since Herr Schröder made his inaugural speech in November. In the speech, he pledged to slash unemployment. Relatively high pay settlements, agreed in February, by metal workers and by public-sector workers have fuelled the anxiety of industry.

The fundamental concern, however, is that Germany is slipping too quickly to the left. Industry's fear of the Greens has dulled somewhat as Herr Schröder seeks to slow down the withdrawal from nuclear energy. But it is plain that the Government could become dependent on the support of the PDS. On a regional level, the Social Democrats are already co-operating with the PDS and this may, as a result of elections in east German states this year, increase.

Business is thus reaching for the emergency brake.

Star of the East brings new light to Michelin firmament

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

A CHINESE restaurant on the Left Bank was awarded a coveted Michelin star yesterday, making it the only Asian restaurant in France to hold such an honour in the new edition of the prestigious restaurant guide.

Chen-Soleil d'Est, a rosewood oasis in a 1970s shopping complex in the capital's 15th arrondisement, joined The Oriental at the Dorchester Hotel in London as the only Chinese restaurant in Europe worthy of a Michelin star.

Fung Ching Chen, the chef, who moved to Paris from Shanghai in 1972, won acclaim for his excellent Peking Duck, which actually hails from Brittany. It is served as three separate dishes — the crispy skin in a crêpe with chives, the meat and as a broth. His delicately flavoured *Boules de Neige parfumées à la Noix de Coco* also met with the judges' approval. "I have been cooking for 30 years and this is the greatest event in my life," said M Chen on hearing the news.

His establishment is the first Chinese restaurant in ten years that has proved capable of pleasing the exacting tastebuds of the Michelin inspectors. Another Left Bank restaurant, Le Tandinh, held the honour for three years, before its star was removed in 1989.

Despite the growing popularity of exotic food in France, the country boasts only one other ethnic restaurant considered worthy of a Michelin star: Tingad, a North African restaurant in the 17th arrondissement which specialises in couscous and tajines.

Another surprise came yesterday as a third star was awarded to unpretentious chef, Michel Bras, whose authentic cuisine used herbs and mountain plants long before they became fashionable. Haughty critics had argued that his restaurant at Laguiole, deep in the rural heart of the Aveyron, would never achieve the ultimate gastronomic accolade, not only because it closes each year from October to April, but because the waiters are attired in simple cowherds' smocks and M Bras insists that his customers use the same knife for each course.

Yesterday, M Bras, 52, who was awarded his first star in 1982 and won his second five years later, attributed his success to his mother and the rugged Aubrac countryside where he grew up.

"My mother and Aubrac gave me a sense of what is beautiful and good, they taught me to do wonderful things with very little," he said. "My dishes tell a story ... I want them to bear witness to the countryside, the rocks, the skies and the light which make up my life here."

China vents its anger over Taiwan

Beijing accuses Pentagon of pushing arms sales, writes James Pringle



Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, and Tang Jiaxuan, the Chinese Foreign Minister, at the conclusion of their joint press conference in Beijing yesterday

ON THE second day of a strained visit to China by Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, Beijing launched a furious attack on America over Pentagon reports that the Chinese were building a major missile force with the intention of intimidating Taiwan.

Zhu Bangzao, for the Foreign Ministry, said yesterday that the Pentagon report on the military situation in the Taiwan Strait was a "serious interference in China's internal affairs". The official Xinhua news agency quoted him as saying: "China expressed its serious dissatisfaction and resolute opposition."

Xinhua added that the report was part of an American plan to step up sales to Taiwan of advanced weapons such as ballistic and cruise missiles.

The Pentagon assessment — sent to Congress last week and released on Friday — did not imply that Beijing was planning to carry out an attack against Taiwan and noted that the situation in the Taiwan Strait was calm. However, it did emphasise that Beijing, which considers Taiwan a renegade province, has refused to renounce the use of force against the offshore island.

Analysts believe that, in the event of a military confrontation breaking out, Beijing could overwhelm Taiwan's current missile defences and superior air force by 2005, thanks to the sheer weight of numbers of its weapons.

American law allows sales of defensive arms to Taiwan despite both Washington's transfer of diplomatic ties to Beijing in 1979 and China's opposition to any arms sales to the island. Washington has angered Beijing by selling F16 warplanes, Patriot missiles and other advanced weapons to Taipei.

In an illustration of the blunt nature of the current Sino-American dialogue, Ms Albright said at a joint press conference with her Chinese opposite number that Washington deplored Beijing's crackdown on pro-democracy activists, while Tan Jiaxuan, the Chinese Foreign Minister, accused the US of "wantonly interfering in other countries' affairs".

Mr Tang added: "A handful of anti-China elements within the United States is going all out to interfere with and obstruct the normal development of China-US relations.

"We have always been opposed to politicising the human rights question and to wantonly interfering in others countries' affairs by using human rights questions as an excuse," he added.

But Ms Albright, who yesterday also met Zhu Rongji, the Prime Minister, said that human rights were a "question of grave concern".

In a reference to the crackdown on dissent that began late last year, and continued this past weekend with the detention or jailing of several dissidents, Ms Albright added: "We have deplored the actions that have taken place recently and I will raise those issues with the Foreign Minister."

Last Friday the US State Department released an annual report saying that human rights deteriorated sharply in China last year. Quarrels over human rights, satellite sales and defence policy show that the goodwill from summit meetings in the past two years between President Clinton and his Chinese opposite number, Jiang Zemin, did not lead to a unified point of view.

But Ms Albright and Mr Tang also said that, in the long term, relations had improved and they were committed to narrowing the differences between their countries. China yesterday issued a critique of human rights in America, emphasising its rampant gun violence, overcrowded prisons, racial discrimination and poverty.

Meanwhile, an activist in southern China yesterday launched a second opposition party, the China Rights Party, which aimed to promote civil rights. The earlier China Democracy Party, launched last year, has been under severe attack from Chinese security agencies, with several leaders being given long jail terms.

☐ **Out in open:** China has jettisoned all Beijing's foreigner-restricted areas — set up in 1958 to protect "state secrets". Foreigners found in the areas, marked by 118 checkpoints and usually containing military barracks or accommodation for top-level officials, would be removed. Some were deported. Most areas were opened in 1985, since when all but two of the last restrictions had gone. Last year about 2.13 million foreigners visited the city. *(AFP)*

'Stolen' children sue the state for damages

FROM DAVID WATTS IN SYDNEY

LORNA CUBILLO wept uncontrollably as she relived the horror of the day in 1947 when she was wrenched from her family. She is middle-aged now but has never forgotten the day she was put on a lorry with 16 other children aged from seven months to 11 years and taken from her parents. Ms Cubillo is one of the "stolen generation".

She told her story yesterday in Darwin at the opening of a legal case against the Federal Government seeking compensation for the suffering visited on Aboriginal children under the White Australia Policy.

As the lorry pulled away a baby was dumped in Lorna Cubillo's arms and she, a seven-year-old, was told she would be responsible for it. At first, she thought she was going on a picnic, but the screaming of the grief-stricken Aboriginal mothers, racing after the lorry, alerted her that this was no picnic. It turned out to be a two-day drive through outback Northern Territory to Darwin and nine years in an institution.

Her story, and that of thousands of other Aborigines forcefully assimilated as part of the White Australia Policy, is something the country is struggling to come to terms with.

When Peter Gunner was grabbed he believed he was going to be killed. "I didn't see the welfare blokes and they grabbed me and held me by the arms and dragged me to the truck. I went mad screaming to my family to help me, but they didn't move. They couldn't do nothing about it."

He is a joint party with Ms Cubillo in the first civil action of its kind being brought against the Government by the stolen generation. They are seeking both compensatory and punitive damages for wrongful imprisonment and breach of a vast range of duties. A previous case, brought by other plaintiffs in 1997 on constitutional grounds, failed.

But if this action is successful it will have implications not only for 700 others seeking similar redress but also the 30,000 or so British orphans who were sent to Australia, beginning in the inter-war period. It will leave Australia with little choice but to confront the question of compensation.

Military maverick declared Nigeria poll victor

General must show he is not army stooge, writes Sam Kiley in Lagos

Obasanjo: has vowed to stamp out corruption

THE former Nigerian military leader General Olusegun Obasanjo was returned to power as an elected civilian President yesterday by a huge margin, amid accusations of vote rigging and cheating from his rival and international monitors. Olu Falae, the loser, called the elections a farce.

Jimmy Carter, former US President and leader of an observer team, agreed that there were widespread irregularities. But cheating was not confined to General Obasanjo's supporters in the People's Democratic Party. Mr Falae's All People's Party was equally at fault, according to the Nigerian Transition Monitoring Group, which deployed 10,700 observers across the country.

General Obasanjo pledged to continue the process of democracy and said that he did not believe that any elections could be perfect after his 63 per cent win was formally announced. Nigerians will now be looking to the general to make good his campaign pledge to stamp out corruption and show that he is no stooge of the armed forces, anxious to keep a handle on power.

To many members of his own Yoruba tribe of the south-west in particular, he is nothing more than a stalking horse for a northerner-dominated military unwilling to leave Nigeria's political stage open to civilians. To his supporters in the north, he will be a trustworthy custodian of their interests. He has allowed them to let go control of the presidency and favour a power shift to the south without risking a national fragmentation. However, the general has a habit of confounding both his critics and his fans.

RESULTS		
Official voting figures:		
Obasanjo:	18,738,000	(62.8%)
Falae:	11,110,000	(37.2%)

Born to humble farmers in 1937, General Obasanjo finished his high-school education, but was too poor to take up a university place. Like many growing up in the transition from British colonial rule to independence in October 1960, he saw a future for himself in the army, which provided an education at the Mons Officers' Cadet School in England, and engineer training in Shrivenham, Oxfordshire. Service with the United Nations in Congo was followed by the Biafran War in 1967.

It was in Biafra where he earned national recognition in a daring, maverick manoeuvre. Ignoring orders from Lagos and the operational plans of a rival divisional commander to the north of secessionist Biafra, the then Colonel Obasanjo launched a surprise attack on the breakaway region, forced a surrender and emerged a national hero — much to the irritation of Nigeria's generals and other divisional commanders.

"It was a shock and embarrassment that, while we were waiting for our own D-Day which had been planned for January 15, he invaded from the south and got all the glory," said retired Major-General Theodopholus Danjuma, then a colonel and now a close friend tipped to be Defence Minister. General Obasanjo, 61, has been President before, when he took over after a military leader, Murtala Mohammed, was assassinated in 1975. Four years later he became the only military dictator to hand power back voluntarily to civilians. General Abdulsalami Abubakar will hand the presidency to General Obasanjo at the end of May. The latter's relative poverty, and role as a Commonwealth emissary to apartheid South Africa have ensured him international and domestic credibility.

"One cannot help feeling that he's probably the only person around who might be able to do the job," said Karl Maeir, an observer at the elections and West Africa analyst.

Leading article, page 23

Police had to rescue Anwar in cell attack

BY DAVID WATTS

ANWAR IBRAHIM was lucky to escape with his life when he was assaulted while handcuffed and blindfolded by the then Malaysian chief of police last year. The commission of inquiry into the beating has already heard medical testimony that his injuries were potentially fatal.

Yesterday Yaacob Muhammad Amin, the director of the Criminal Investigation Department, testified that he and his deputy had to pull Rahim Noor, the police chief, off the former Deputy Prime Minister to stop the assault.

Mr Yaacob said that he was outside the cell when he heard a voice in Malay saying: "Don't hit me". He and his deputy, Ramli Yusof, rushed inside. "Then I saw Tan Sri Rahim [Noor]. I grabbed his belt and pulled him with my right hand towards me, with my left hand holding the bar of the cell ... Ramli was pushing Rahim away and I pushed Rahim out of the cell. We had to get Rahim out of the cell."

All this happened on a day when the police chief later assured the foreign press that Mr Anwar was "safe and well".

Halim Mansar, a forensic science expert at Kuala Lumpur General Hospital, examined Mr Anwar four days after the assault and he testified that there were multiple injuries that were "very dangerous for the victim. The extent of the injuries was very severe".







Car fumes make Los Angeles the cancer capital

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

CANCER-CAUSING chemicals in car exhaust fumes have left residents of Los Angeles hundreds of times more at risk of fatal disease than the federal Clean Air Act allows, according to a government study that is likely to send shock-waves through the healthcare and automotive industries.

The congressional study of air quality in America's second-largest city, published yesterday, reveals airborne carcinogens at levels 426 times higher than those established as safe nine years ago.

The alarming figures "should give a jolt" to the city, a spokeswoman for the Natural Resources Defence Council in Washington, said. "We know our air is dirty, but now we know in black and white that it's toxic too," he added.

Los Angeles smog, which for decades has driven film stars to the coast for the relief brought by onshore breezes, has already prompted the nation's toughest car emissions standards.

But yesterday's report showed that little has been done to curb invisible compounds in vehicle exhaust that target internal organs and may be behind the region's stubbornly high cancer levels.

Butadiene, benzene and formaldehyde cause tumours in human lungs, breasts, ovaries, livers, thyroid glands, testes and other organs, tests have shown.

All three are present at unusually high levels in the air over the Los Angeles basin, where clinics such as the John Wayne Cancer Wing at the Cedars Sinai Medical Centre have treated a steady stream of famous — and merely rich — cancer victims, including Larry Hagman, Michael Landon and Gilda Radner.

"It appears that motor vehicles create the largest portion of the toxic risk in terms of their emissions," Barry Wallerstein of the local Air Quality Management District said.

The Clean Air Act set a target of exposing only one American in a million to the risk of cancer through bad air quality. In Los Angeles that index is now at 470 per million, the study found, while in neighbouring Burbank, where much of the film industry is based, 483 per million are at risk.

Smoking is still more dangerous than breathing the air in Los Angeles — 250 times more dangerous for an adult with a one-pack-per-day habit, according to the report.

Nonetheless, American environmentalists hope that it may not be long before, in a hitherto unthinkable development, petrol-burning cars are required to carry public health warnings.

☐ Britain has standards for two of the chemicals identified in the California study — benzene and butadiene (Nigel Hawkes writes). Both are exceeded in urban streets, but improvements now being made should mean that the standards are met by 2005.

But Roger Higman, of Friends of the Earth, said that there may even then be hotspots in the centres of cities, and around petrol stations, where levels continued to exceed the limits. Both of these chemicals are present in fuel and reach the air as it is pumped into cars.

Last year the European Commission proposed a tougher limit on benzene. To meet it, emissions will have to fall by 70 per cent more than already planned. Similar limits on other carcinogens, including butadiene, are expected to follow.

The Californian figures sound alarming, and at face value they represent an extra 470 cases of cancer per million people. But as 250,000 people in every million can expect to contract cancer, this represents about 2 per cent.



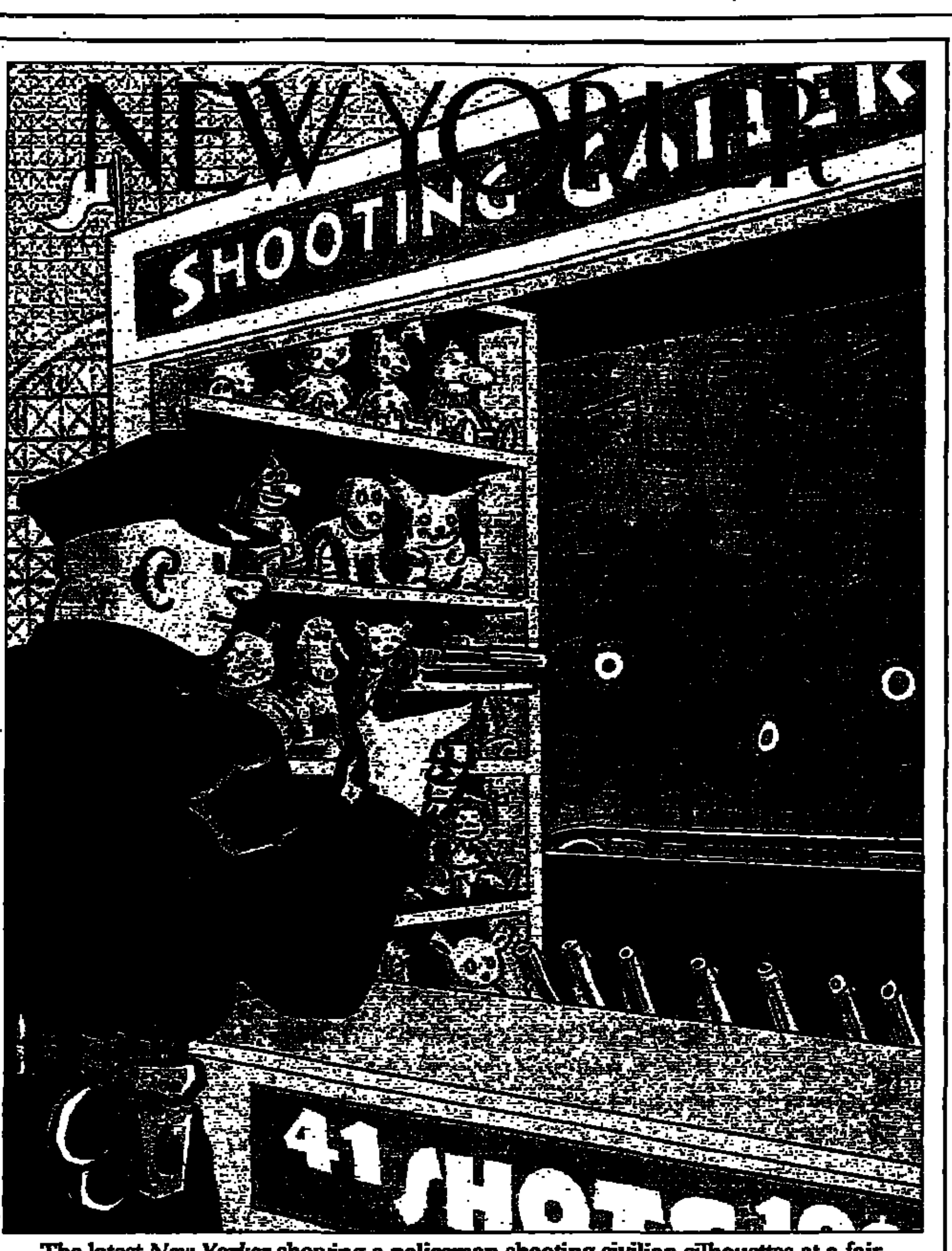
Ford's outsize four-wheel-drive vehicle, the Excursion

King of the road is here

IT IS the size and weight of a respectable log cabin, but so much more versatile (Giles Whittell writes). With room for the entire extended family and three average cars' worth of luggage, the Ford Excursion will be the largest mass-produced four-wheel-drive when launched later this year.

Welcome to the age of the behemoth, when the oil crisis of 1973 is but a hazy memory.

Unveiled last week at Ford's Michigan headquarters, the Excursion is expected to prove once and for all that size does matter in the heartland. Longer and wider than its biggest rival, the Chevrolet Suburban, the $50,000 (£35,000) Excursion is nearly 19feet long and weighs 3.5 tonnes when empty. The sporty version will offer a stately ten miles per gallon on city streets.



The latest *New Yorker* showing a policeman shooting civilian silhouettes at a fair

New Jersey police chief is sacked for racial 'slur'

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

ONE of America's top policemen has been fired for suggesting that drugs crimes are associated with particular ethnic groups, and accusing Jamaicans of running his state's heroin trade.

Colonel Carl Williams, the superintendent of New Jersey's state police, had been at the centre of a controversy over allegations of "racial profiling" in apprehending drivers since white officers fired 11 times at four unarmed non-white youths whose car was pulled over on the way to a basketball game in April.

In an interview with a local newspaper, Colonel Williams condemned "racial profiling" and denied it was practised by his force. But he insisted it was naive to believe that race was not an issue in drug trafficking and other crimes.

"Two weeks ago the President of the United States went to Mexico to talk to the President of Mexico about drugs," he said. "He didn't go to Ireland. He didn't go to England . . .

"If you are looking at the methamphetamine market, that seems to be controlled by the motorcyle gangs, which are basically white," he added. "If you are looking at heroin and stuff like that, your involvement there is more or less Jamaican."

Black politicians, churchmen and civil rights activists expressed outrage, and Christine Todd Whitman, the Governor, dismissed Colonel Williams.

Controversy over police racism is also raging in New York, where four white members of a "street crimes" unit shot dead a Guinean immigrant armed only with a beeper, firing a total of 41 times.

The police union protested yesterday against a "grossly offensive" cartoon on the cover of the latest *New Yorker*, showing police at a fairground shooting gallery with a sign reading: "41 shots, 10 cents."

Senators seek to avert risk of Armageddon

Ian Brodie in Washington reports on a plan to beat the millennium bug

TWO American senators want experts from the nuclear powers to get together next New Year's Eve to eliminate any chance of a year 2000 (Y2K) computer problem triggering a false missile alert.

The experts would assemble at a temporary centre in Colorado Springs, where America's missile-tracking headquarters — the North American Aerospace Defence Command — is buried deep inside Cheyenne Mountain.

Russia has already agreed to a proposal by Washington to set up a temporary joint early warning system to avoid any risk of the Y2K millennium bug causing a nuclear Armageddon. But the senators are recommending that America should try to bring the other nuclear powers, including China, India and Pakistan, to Colorado Springs.

The pair, Robert Bennett, a Republican, and Christopher Dodd, a Democrat, are leading a Senate committee on the Y2K problem.

Mr Dodd said the experts should be in the same room for the critical period when older computer systems — using only the last two digits of a year — could malfunction by misreading the year 2000 as 1900. "If something does break down, we've got people there who can monitor it and make quick decisions," he said.

The missile watchers at Cheyenne Mountain do not believe in principle that there is any danger of an inadvertent nuclear launch caused by the Y2K bug. Missiles are not, after all, fired by computers, but by human commands. They do see a risk, however, of confusion in the event of one country suffering a blackout or breakdown in the power supply to its nuclear systems that could leave other countries "blind" to its intentions.

The experts would sit at a round table and be in touch with their head offices by telephone. They would be able to give reassurances if any of them showed signs of having a problem.

The proposed name for the Armageddon watch room is the Centre for the Year 2000 Strategic Stability. Edward Warner, the Under-Secretary of Defence, will go to Moscow with a Pentagon working group this month to meet their Russian counterparts and make plans for the centre. It will be operational from the beginning of December this year until the middle of January 2000.

A continuous stream of information will be made available to the Russians via American satellites and ground sensors.

Last year, Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin agreed to pursue development of a permanent joint early warning centre in Russia to continuously share data on missile launches. But it will not be ready by the end of the year.

Pentagon officials said the Russians knew about the bug and its potential for disruption, but had not yet dedicated enough money or people to fight it.

A report from the two senators says an accidental nuclear launch is unlikely. But Mr Bennett said: "When we get to New Year's Eve, everybody, no matter how informed we think we are, is going to be holding his breath."

The senators also gave a warning of non-nuclear millennium problems in America, including potential power cuts and problems in doctors' surgeries and hospitals, where Y2K preparations are lagging badly.

They stopped short of issuing a Doomsday warning, but said Americans would be well advised to stock up on two or three days' supplies of food, much as they would for a blizzard.



LINKS

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/yr2000/index.htm — Home Office site with information about the response of public sector bodies to the bug.

http://www.bug2000.co.uk/ — Website of the Action 2000 Agency.

http://www.microsoft.com/technet/year2k/ — The Microsoft Year 2000 centre, with information about how Microsoft products are affected by the bug.

'Female Viagra' revellers suffer seizures

New York: Revellers at a wild birthday party on Manhattan's Upper West Side started dropping to the floor and two women were rushed to hospital with breathing difficulties after guests took a herbal remedy dubbed the "female Viagra" (James Bone writes).

Partygoers were drinking beer with chasers of "Invigorate" — touted as a miracle drug that can put users in a good mood, help them to lose weight, build muscle and improve their sex lives. The lemon-flavoured drug contains a compound known as gamma-butyro-lactone, or GBL — also used in "date-rape" by men who slip it into women's drinks.

The dietary supplement was pulled from chemists' shelves in January when the US Food and Drug Administration reported that 55 people had suffered adverse reactions to substances containing GBL, including one woman who died. It can still be purchased on the Internet, where it is described as the "Fountain of Youth".

As many as a dozen people at Saturday's party fell ill, having downed shots of the potion, which is meant to be taken by the teaspoonful. "The party was out of control," said one host. "People were dropping to the floor and having seizures."

The idle vow that cost £1m, payable in sweat

John Spurling is running the London Marathon against all advice, says **Jon Ashworth**

Many people say things they regret after a drink or two, but few on the scale of John Spurling, a semi-retired businessman. Last year, over drinks in Langan's Brasserie, he agreed to compete in this year's Flora London Marathon despite never having run anywhere in his life. Worse, he pledged to raise £1 million for charity.

Overweight and out of condition, Spurling, 59, embarked on a training programme under which he will have run 1,500 miles by the time his ordeal is over. Even his trainer tried to talk him out of it. But Spurling is a man obsessed, and on marathon day, April 18, he intends to complete the 26 miles even if it takes all day.

Spurling has spent much of his life in Kenya, which is known for its long-distance runners. He has attracted pledges of £550,000 so far, which, if he finishes the marathon, will easily outstrip the previous individual best of £444,000, raised in 1982 by Sir Roger Gibbs to fund a new body scanner at Guy's Hospital. His endeavours will benefit animals and children, through the Animal Health Trust and the Lord's Taverners, whose chairman is a close friend.

Preparing an out-of-shape man for such a punishing ordeal is no small challenge. Spurling runs at least ten miles a day, six days a week, using a treadmill in his Central London flat, and admits that it has been tough. "The first time I tried to touch my toes, I could only get to my knees," he says. "I'd never done any exercise except golf."

Five months into his training, he has run 800 miles, his blood pressure is down and he has lost weight. "I cut out all carbohydrates except for a bowl of cereal in the morning — no bread, no rice, no pasta — and I started losing weight fast. The body's fat turns into carbohydrates, so it starts to eat the fat away."

Weight loss or not, people think he is crazy. John Major, who has pledged money, told Spurling he had "lost his marbles". Sir Denis Thatcher, on hearing of his quest at a Lord's Taverners event, shouted: "When's the memorial service?" His trainer, Lee Saxby, a *former RAF engineer, is* almost as unforgiving. "A marathon is an unnatural event," he says. "The first guy who did it in Ancient Greece got to the end and died. It ages you and it's hell for your joints."

Spurling received a letter from an orthopaedic surgeon pledging to pay him £1,000 *not* to run. He told Spurling: "I've had enough of silly old sods doing exercise they shouldn't be doing." More than 40,000 runners sign up for the London Marathon but only 30,000 run on the day. Injuries claim the rest.

Saxby says: "Compared with sprinters, marathon runners look terrible. They lose all their muscle and age very quickly. All that mileage and the oxygen going out of their bodies damages the cells and speeds up the ageing process."

> I tried to touch my toes but I could only reach my knees

He admits to thinking twice before taking Spurling on. "John had every risk factor in the book. He's male, and guys tend to drop dead of cardiovascular disease more than females. He was overweight, had high blood pressure and had been inactive for most of his life. In theory, no, he shouldn't be doing it."

Marathon runners talk about "hitting the wall" at a certain point in a race — usually around 20 miles, when the body's store of carbohydrates runs out and it starts to burn fat. Spurling jokes that he hits the wall after 300 yards. "Every day I ask myself, why I am doing this? They say your body releases a chemical that makes you look forward to training. That hasn't happened to me yet."

Spurling has a host of celebrities egging him on, from Jeffrey Archer to Bobby Charlton, Michael Aspel and Geoff Hurst. Sebastian Coe is providing encouragement. Spurling's aim is to work up to 20 miles on his treadmill, then tackle the 26 miles for the first time on the day. "I run a mile, then walk for a minute. That seems to be what my body is accepting," he says. "I'd be thrilled to do it in five hours."

Although he makes light of it, people do drop dead in marathons and there must be a risk in punishing your body in this way. His wife, Gwyneth, says she panicked initially, but takes comfort from the fact that there have been only five marathon deaths in 18 years. Whatever happens, the charities will get their money. Spurling has insured his life for £1 million — just in case.

● *Anyone who wishes to support John Spurling can send donations to The Animal Health Trust/ Lord's Taverners Marathon Challenge, 22 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AA. Everyone who makes a pledge will receive a thank-you certificate signed by more than 40 celebrities. Cheques should be made payable to AHT/ Taverners Marathon Run.*

PAUL ROGERS



John Spurling (left) limbers up in Hyde Park with his personal trainer, Lee Saxby. He trains on a treadmill at home

Pushing the body beyond normal limits

MEDICINE CHEST
DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

AVID runners need have no worries about their cardiovascular system. Provided it was normal when they start the London Marathon, the heart will still be beating bravely at the finishing line.

There is no evidence that strenuous physical exercise in temperate climatic conditions does any long-term damage to the heart, and runners are therefore unlikely to expire en route. There are occasional deaths among athletes, but this is usually the result of a dangerous arrhythmia; the result of undetected disease.

Although minor arrhythmias are common during heavy exercise, they don't usually cause disasters and when they do, it is usually because the runners were unaware that their coronary arteries were in poor fettle, either because they had some congenital disease of the arteries or the aortic valve, or more frequently that their coronary arteries were already plagued with atheroma. This is the fatty material that furs up arteries — sudden exercise sometimes causes one of the plaques adherent to the artery wall to rupture, with the result that debris may block a vital artery. Occasionally, calamity follows an undetected cardiomyopathy, an overgrowth of heart muscle and enlargement of the heart to the point where it no longer functions efficiently.

None of the marathon runners should be taking part if they have a temperature, or even if they think they are sickening for a dose of flu or other infection. The heart is much more vulnerable to transitory infection than is sometimes realised, and it is thought that some of the unexpected sudden deaths in young athletes each year are because, despite having a temperature, they have ventured out on to the pitch rather than sitting by a warm fire.

Detecting heart disease in an athlete isn't always easy. Some endurance athletes who, day by day build up their physical prowess, develop the athletic heart syndrome. The heart becomes enlarged, the heart rate becomes very slow, and they develop various changes in their ECG pattern that strike terror into the non-specialist doctor, particularly as the patient may also have acquired a multiplicity of murmurs. Although a harmless syndrome, it is not a diagnosis that can be made in five minutes at the end of a busy surgery and its true nature should be confirmed by an expert.

If athletes were chased by a pack of hounds down the Embankment and were then bundled away by human rights protesters, their blood serum analysed and their urine examined for traces of haemolysed blood, the results would be alarming. Every headline next day would be crying out for such a cruel sport to be abandoned, and earnest doctors would discuss whether, if it hadn't been for their skilful attention, the runner would have died. Marathon running certainly pushes the body beyond the limits that it would normally have to endure, and there is transitory damage to the muscles and joints.

Although marathon runners are at risk of exposing hitherto unsuspected heart disease, they are more likely to suffer from other problems over the years. The runner should remember that he hasn't the hounds of hell chasing him, and that even if television cameras are present, and everybody from the office is cheering him on, it is essential to stop if the pain is intolerable. Likewise, stop if chest pain or a very severe headache is noticed. Feeling dizzy, loss of concentration and orientation so that everything becomes a blur is an indication that it is time to melt into the crowds after visiting the first-aid tent.

In the unlikely event of a very hot day, heatstroke and heat exhaustion are risks for the unfit. Pounding the pavements results in excessive wear and tear of the spine and arthritis of the intervertebral joints — this is only partially prevented by having shock-absorbent soles on roomy trainers and doing as much running as possible on grass. Knees and feet are also affected and the arches of the athlete's feet are likely to be as painful and flat as those of the proverbial policeman. Toes are hammered against the end of the shoes when running; the nails when raised from their bed make an ideal cranny for fungi and athlete's foot.

The overenthusiastic athlete may also pay an emotional price. Research a few years ago showed that marathon runners are more likely to divorce — psychiatrists regard excessive exercise as an interesting symptom.

Harder they run, higher they fly

Addictive side-effects and a sense of achievement motivate the contestants, as **Victoria Fletcher** discovers

For most of the British public, the Flora London Marathon is an almost alien event. Sitting in living rooms, they watch with perverted fascination as the breed of forlorn creatures puffs past. After six hours, a unanimous conclusion is voiced: runners are nutters.

Although it is true that to run 26.2 miles requires determination, psychologists suggest that it is not such an impossible feat as most of the voyeurs might think. In fact, thanks to chemicals released by the brain when excessive exercise is taken, running becomes an addiction.

Alma Thomas, a sports psychologist and co-ordinator for UK Athletics, argues that almost anybody could run a marathon, whatever their sporting history.

"There is nothing to say that you need to be a certain type of person to run, have a certain physique or have a tough mental state. Many people are dragged into it and may not be enthusiastic when they start training, but most find that they become addicted to the physiological side-effects of exercise," she says.

These side-effects are crucial in motivating many of the less likely marathon runners to continue their gruelling training regimes. When intensive exercise is undertaken, a reaction occurs in the brain to quell the physical pain and mental torture. Research has shown that these natural endorphins have the same effect as drugs such as heroin. The athlete feels elated and his or her sense of pain is suppressed.

"The endorphins make runners feel 'high'," Thomas says. "Combine this with the fact that being fit makes people feel good about themselves and their bodies, and even the most lethargic manage to keep on training."

Control is also important for runners. Thomas believes that many people who feel they are not achieving in other areas of their lives get a sense of reward from completing their training and improving their times.

"Many people never feel that they can do it. Then they train and realise that they can reach little targets. They are in control and build confidence until they begin to run greater distances," she says. "However, when they stop, they often get a sense of depression because both the psychological and physiological rewards stop."

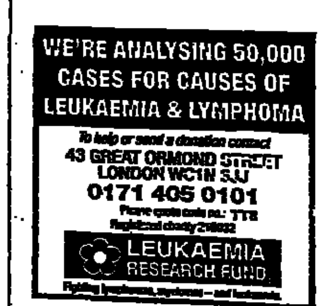
Keeping the mind occupied and determined is one of the hardest battles for the marathon runner. Dr Sarah Rowell is a sports science consultant and former British women's marathon record holder. Despite her talent and fitness, she admits that there was not a single race where she did not consider dropping out.

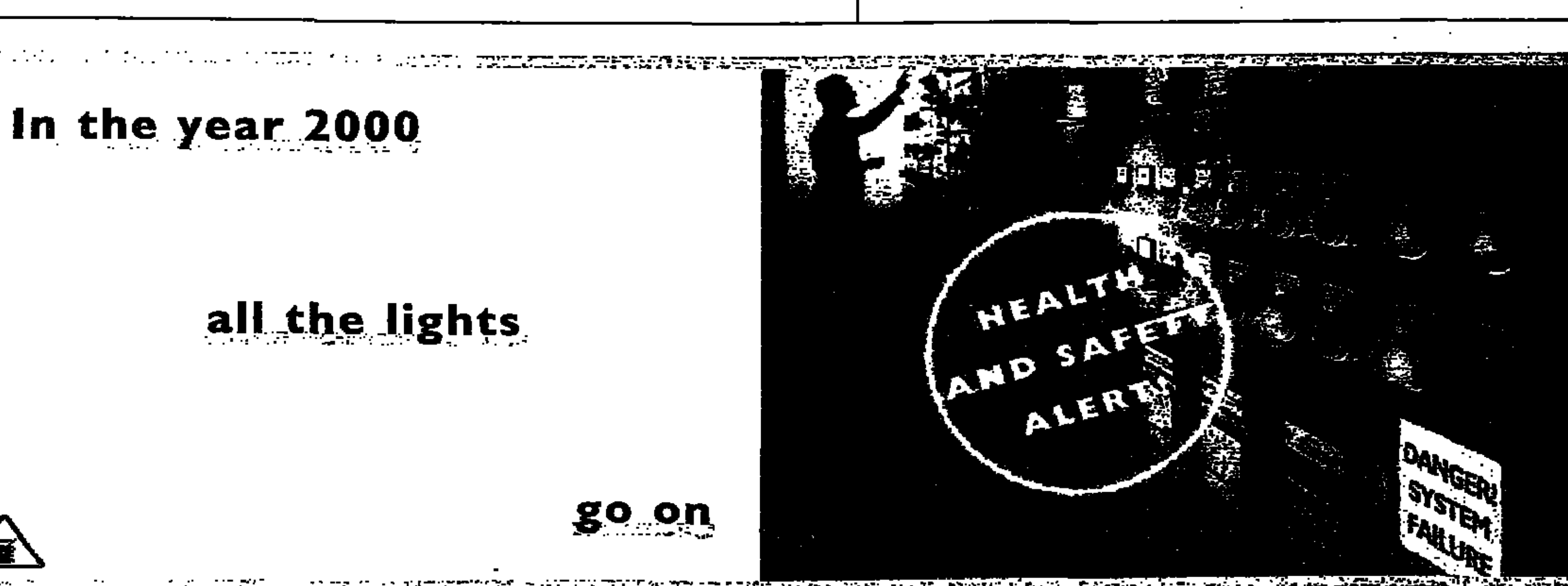
"The mental challenge is almost greater than the physical challenge. You can train and be fit for the race, but how your mind works is what will make the difference. I would always want to stop and give up at the halfway mark, but then I would pull through that awful period and go on to break records."

Rowell's research with some of the country's top athletes has led her to believe that there are two types of marathon runner. Most amateurs cope with the pain and boredom by thinking of unrelated subjects, from their jobs to what they will eat for supper. Her research suggests that although this is more enjoyable, it can depress performance. Runners who become obsessive over heart rate and physical composure run faster.

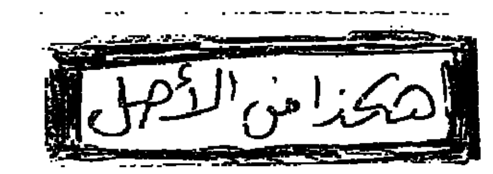
"We have found that the people who think about the race, concentrate on their pace, their breathing, the next water-stop and their aches and pains will achieve better times than those who switch off," she says.

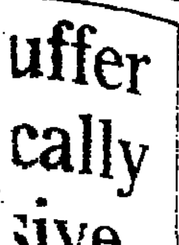
For the runners who do manage to finish the 26-mile slog, an even more interesting psychological conundrum awaits. Instead of relaxing, the obsessive interest in exercise can move to new extremes. "After one race, people often find that they are addicted physically and mentally," Rowell says. "They need a tougher challenge. That is when most decide to run in fancy-dress."











Sceptic seeks New Age therapy



Jane Shilling had never had so much as a whiff of an aromatherapist's essence when a disastrous year finally made her cast aside her natural scepticism and go in search of natural remedies

MIND

If 4am is the low point of the day, when the living lie awake and anxious, and the dying relinquish their hold on life, then late winter is the 4am of the year, when one's complexion goes as grey as the sky and one's immune system sags like boiled knicker elastic.

The resolutions with which one began January in such confidence (gym three times a week; think serene thoughts instead of shouting at children; only one glass of wine with dinner) have faded, adding a sense of failure to add to one's list of self-reproach about being an evil-tempered Slack Alice with a big bum. There are many short-term strategies for weathering this unlovely season: a week's skiing, a facial, a trip to the sales in search of cashmere comfort clothing. But every so often one reaches a point where such palliatives don't work any more.

This was my state early this year: frustration had been heaped upon disappointment in 1998. Things reached a climax just before Christmas in the form of a frightening health scare. I have devised ways of blunting the sharp tooth of adversity: a moan to a patient friend, a glass of red wine, a fat 19th-century novel or an hour's energetic bouncing on the back of a horse. But by New Year's Eve I felt that what was happening to me was well beyond the power of Château Tassin to alleviate. So after a lifetime's scepticism, with never so much as a whiff of an aromatherapist's essence, I found myself setting off on a journey into the unknown realm of complementary therapy.

I began at Lifestyle Management, in Wimpole Street, Central London. In its press release the consultancy, run by Jane Townsend and Alix Needham, urges: "Take stock, throw off old baggage, revitalise your life. Geri did it, Cher did it, Madonna did it. Now you can do it!"

Needham was reassuringly matter-of-fact about how she might help to improve my life. She spent a year studying in India after leaving teaching, before returning to London in the 1980s designer boom and thinking that since people were so keen to have designer everything — cars, kitchens, clothes, babies — why not a designer lifestyle?

Lifestyle Management offers ways of identifying and achieving goals, junking baggage and habits. Clients might include a successful thirtysomething woman whose career had flourished at the expense of her emotional life, or a middle-aged man who could not decide whether to leave his wife and begin afresh with his mistress.

Needham's role is to encourage people to break free of their "comfort zones" of habit, envisage what their life might be and then devise the means by which they might arrive at the desired state. The process generally takes five to ten sessions, at about £80 a visit.

So, asked Needham, what was my problem? Oh, usual working mother's stuff, said I. Too much to do, no time to do it all, resulting in exhaustion, bad temper and the looks and manner of a flesh-eating zombie. Ten minutes' deft questioning broke the problem down into three parts: better organisation of my work, providing time for myself, and work on understanding why I find it so hard to stop doing chores (not for nothing is the Shilling family motto "You're Not Here to Enjoy Yourself").

"Now you're going to go into a relaxed state," said Needham. I was to shut my eyes while she counted to ten. I was to imagine that in my right hand I held my professional self, in my left, myself as a child. What would the child say to her parents about how she had grown up? Oh dear. The prospect of saying anything at all on that subject was too awful to contemplate, even in a state of alleged relaxation. No, really, I couldn't. Perhaps, said I, squirming, but trying not to be unhelpful, I could tell my child self that I was a grown-up now, so it didn't much matter how I'd been brought up. Fine, said Needham. Now I was to join my hands symbolically together, she would count to ten again, and I could open my eyes. She then set me some "tasks"; for example, I was to ask my nanny for an evening's babysitting a week, then reorganise my work schedule to accommodate a night off.

I ask my nanny to babysit once a year, but emboldened by Alix's can-do approach, I mumbled something like, if it wasn't too much trouble, might she consider it? Delighted, she replied.

Dazzled by my new, pleasure-filled lifestyle, I set off in good humour for my session of Rosen bodywork with Ulrike Tham. Tham trained as a nurse in Sweden, where her interest in complementary medicine grew from a sense that her patients were overmedicated. She then encountered Marion Rosen, a German Jewish refugee whose work with a former student of Jung convinced her of the link between mind and body, and led her to devise a system of gentle massage intended to put clients in touch, emotionally and physically, with their "core selves" — it is based on the premise that each of us has an "authentic" self with which we gradually lose touch through the adoption of the masks and stratagems imposed by social conditioning.

My session was in her flat, an airy basement filled with the smell of a delicious stew. Pinned to the walls are texts from Goethe. I loathe taking my clothes off in the daytime, so I got undressed and lay stiffly to attention on the massage table, clutching the sheet that Tham had given me.

Tham is a beautiful, middle-aged woman with china-blue eyes. Before starting to work on me, she stood for a moment in silence, breathing deeply, then proceeded to identify the spinal curvature that my doctor had assured me was imperceptible, the paralysing shyness from which I had thought ten years of talking to strangers for a living might have cured, and another, even less creditable quality.

"You're a little fighter, aren't you?" she said kindly. Oh dear. Old crosspatch, my son would say. Well, yes, I do feel the need to fight for every inch of ground, I admitted, as briskly as one can while lying semi-naked on a table. I was determined not to succumb to a weepy recital of my little joys and sorrows. "Reaction during treatment varies widely," Tham's leaflet had warned. "Some want to talk, laugh or cry." Not me. Perhaps, said Tham as I dressed and prepared to leave, something will come out in your dreams. "Never have a dream I can remember," I said.

I went home, feeling relaxed and interested in what Tham had said, but no different. That night I had a vivid, disagreeable dream about making an exhausting journey, with lots of difficult connections. You didn't have to be Jung to work it out. The next night I had an even nastier dream, so awful that I never allow my conscious mind near it. And the next morning, in unexpected and terminal fashion, that source of anguish put an end to itself.

Spooky or what? said I to a friend, a scientific rationalist. "Pooh!" she cried, explaining it away in terms of manipulation of the parasympathetic nervous system. Parasympathetic nervous system or what, if I were Tham, I'd be glad they don't burn witches any more.

● *Lifestyle Management, £80 a session; 0171-935 1965. Ulrike Tham, from £37 an hour; 0171-379 7662*

RETNA



Esprit de core: get in touch with your authentic self

'Spin your throat chakra in a clockwise direction.' Eh?

BODY

In my exploration of complementary therapies, I had begun to address the sensations of panic and discontent that hover over the lives of many women. Emotionally there seemed a possibility of improvement, but physically? To work full-time, run a house and raise a child single-handed, even with the help of an excellent nanny and loyal, patient friends, is a strain that the human frame was not meant to bear for long. Modern mothers, it has been pointed out, lead the lives of Victorian skivvies, and it shows. However firmly one tells oneself to buck up, the mirror tells its own story.

In my case, the grey complexion and purple rings under the eyes had become so alarming that I was putting in half an hour's work with lipstick and concealer before the school run for fear the other mummies might notice that Alexander was being delivered by Morticia Addams. Moreover, I am permanently exhausted and have the evil temper of the nasty old woman I shall become if I don't watch out. None of this adds up to an illness; certainly nothing I'd bother the GP with. But I have an overpowering sense that I am running on empty and that it can't go on for much longer.

The Balance Clinic on the Kings Road, Chelsea, is the place to go if one feels end-of-tetherish. The detailing is a mixture of the smart vernacular and the quasi-religious. A young woman in white linen pyjamas presides over an altar-like reception desk on which burns a scented candle. Angelic music floats, barely audible, on the air, and on a low table scattered with magazines sits a bowl filled with little slips of card, printed with Beautiful Thoughts: "Be like the angels: share on Earth and live in God," read mine. Perched on *Zest* magazine was a book, *The Voice of the Silence*, by Madame Blavatsky. Wondering what that preposterous figure was doing in this modish *galère*, I opened it at random. "The mind is the great slayer of the real," it observed, sternly.

I had come to the clinic to see Ba Harvey, who, with a combination of kinesiology and reiki, might sort out what ailed me, and do something about it. Harvey, a hygienic figure with blonde hair and a tight white trouser suit, took me into a consulting room with a huge table and a shelf full of lotions. There was a detailed medical questionnaire (the broken collarbone I sustained after being knocked down by a cycle decades ago might be "linked to depression") and then I clambered, clothed but for my shoes, on to the massage table.

Kinesiology is a technique of testing muscle resistance, from which certain "deductions" (complementary therapists recoil from the word "diagnosis" like vampires from garlic) may be made about "imbalances" in the system, and means — massage, nutritional supplements, acupressure etc — of rectifying them.

Harvey tested the resistance of my main joints, and revealed a liver imbalance. Then she put wheat grains at the base of my throat. More tests showed a wheat allergy, of which I had been unaware. Then large tomes were laid on my tummy, and a gentle grip of my wrist signalled which page to consult about a problem or its solution. Part of me was awed by the murmuring intensity of it all; another — imagining what I looked like with my feet and head sticking out at either end and the rest covered in books — was fighting a fit of giggles.

We moved on to reiki healing, which is sometimes accompanied by intense visions or colours. (Mine were those of a comfortable doze.) Harvey perceived an aura, which I was put out to have missed, though consoled by the luxury of having spent a weekday afternoon flat on my back doing absolutely nothing.

The next appointment was with Serena Smith, a hypnotherapist specialising in flower essences, who works from her flat in North London. The atmosphere combines the spiritual with the domestic: family photographs, crystal eggs and miniature Mars bars, a powerful scent of incense and a hortatory Post-It — "I am successful and creative . . ." — on the word-processor screen.

Smith is 60 and an advert for her own programme: she has clear, firm skin and bright, brown eyes. Her manner is warm and sensible and I found myself nodding sagely as she explained how, over six sessions, the "unconscious mind is accessed and given instructions to heal at a cellular level". The process is underpinned with flower essences and a cassette of "positive affirmation". The actual process was prosaic enough: sitting on Smith's cream leather sofa, I shut my eyes and, to the accompaniment of ephemeral music, I listened as she told me that I was becoming ever more relaxed. Then, reading from a script (whose pages crackled as they were turned), she issued an elaborate set of instructions, some of which were a bit advanced. ("Spin your throat chakra in a clockwise direction." Eh?)

Later I had to apostrophise various bits of me in encouraging terms: "Say after me," said Smith, "my beloved pituitary gland . . ." Oh dear. Oh, all right. The result, Smith said, would be that "the helixes in your cells are increasing". Then the tape stopped. I opened my eyes and was given a cassette of affirmation ("I *like* myself. I *approve* of myself") and a bottle of Eternal Youth flower essence.

I listened to my tape, and dosed myself with Eternal Youth. For all I know my helixes were multiplying nicely, but I still felt cross and tired when I went to see Elizabeth Gibaud at the Hale Clinic. The Hale was opened in 1988 by the Prince of Wales at 7 Park Crescent, a cream-stuccoed building in a grand Nash terrace. Inside, the atmosphere is hospital-like, with leaflets on every complementary therapy imaginable. I was to have a facial analysis with Gibaud, whose specialities include weight loss and gain, eating disorders, mood swings, premature ageing, alcohol addiction and cystitis. When young, she had suffered from respiratory and back problems, which she overcame by change of diet and lifestyle, going on to work as an actress in, among other things, the *Carry On* films, before becoming a full-time therapist.

This slight, middle-aged woman with a power bob fixed me with a piercing stare and reeled off defects: sinus problems (true), premature ageing (undeniable), a candida infection (not that I know of). I began to think it a miracle I could stagger about at all. She began on my diet, about which I tend to be smug: no processed food, lots of vegetables, olive oil. She was appalled: "You eat two full meals a day and do nothing to justify such consumption."

What about the daily two-mile trek to school, the twice-weekly ride, the darting about that mothers do? She was unimpressed. A thorough medical inquest followed, which revealed the fact that I am soon to have an operation (for something not very serious).

Then the verdict: two weeks on a strict detox diet and I would be bouncing with health. But I must stick to the diet (breakfast: porridge made with water, and as much cucumber as I fancied; lunch: green leaves, no oil; dinner: baked potato, lean grilled meat or non-oily fish; water). I was to take a detoxifying supplement, calcium, vitamin B, evening primrose oil and two homoeopathic remedies.

I had hardly opened the front door before the telephone rang. It was Gibaud, offering support. Her faith in her regimen is messianic, her follow-up assiduous. Over the next two weeks I was monitored and encouraged.

She has had encouraging results with serious disorders, including cancer. She believed my medical problem could be solved without recourse to surgery. Would I consider postponing the operation? I declined, wondering if it was safe to put myself under the knife after two or three weeks on such a low diet. Absolutely, said Gibaud. In a couple of weeks my immune system would be on top form.

She faxed me testimonials from clients who had benefited from her care, and rang me with news of a young woman who had had cancer since 1988 and had shown, in nine weeks in her care, a real improvement. After two days on the diet my weight dropped to below 8st. I pressed on with the oatmeal and cucumber, but the walk to school had become an ordeal. And I didn't know what to do with my evenings now that I wasn't preparing and consuming dinner.

After a week I had a persistent headache. I had arranged to go riding but felt too limp to control a horse. This is absurd, said an internal voice. Gibaud had warned me about this and I knew what I should do: ring and let her deal with the voice. Instead I made a mug of sergeant-major's tea, stiff with sugar, and swallowed it with slices of toast and Marmite. Ten minutes later I pulled on my riding boots, with a confused sense of having let Gibaud down and a stronger pang of regret: I'll never know what might have happened had my will been stronger, and my tolerance for oatmeal and greenery just a bit higher.

● *The Balance Clinic: kinesiology from £65 per session, reiki from £55 (no charge for a half-hour preliminary consultation), 0171-565 0333; Serena Smith Rejuvenation programme (six sessions over three months) £270, 0171-431 6153; Elizabeth Gibaud, The Hale Clinic, first appointment £70, then £50, 0171-631 0156.*

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Reiki healing may be accompanied by intense visions or sensations of colours. Sometimes a person's aura is perceived



CLASSICAL CDS
David Mellor trawls for the best of Mahler
PAGE 19

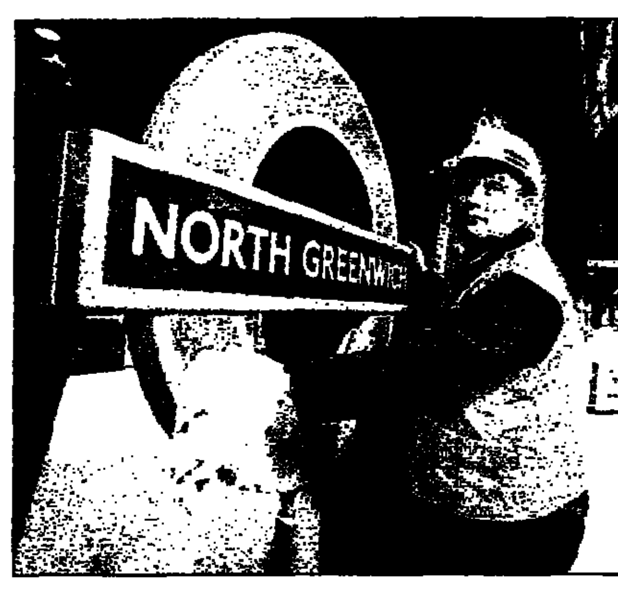
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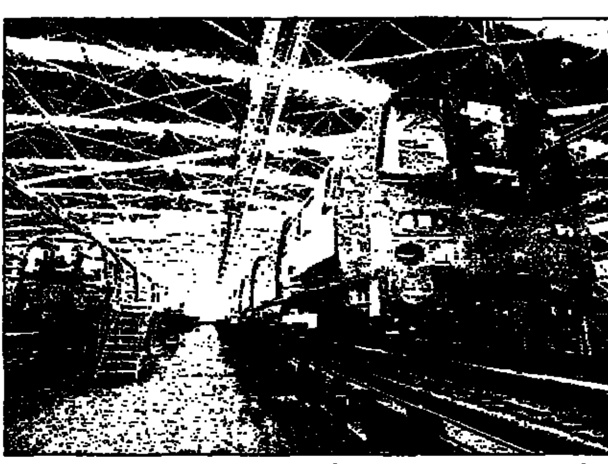
DANCE
Man behind Royal Ballet's new steps



Sights at the end of the tunnel

When it finally opens, the new Jubilee Line extension will be a showcase for Britain's finest architects, says **Marcus Binney**



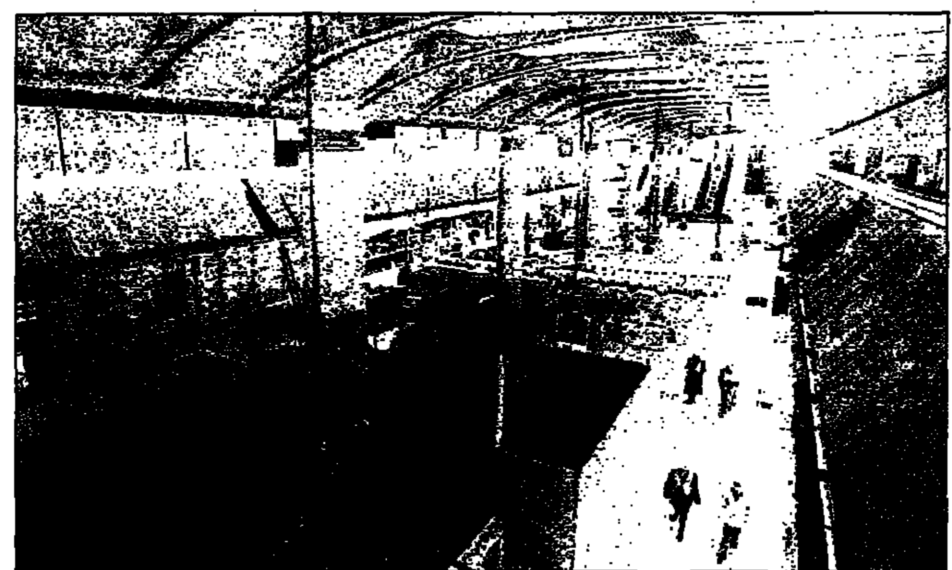


Above: Chris Wilkinson's Stratford depot, with new trains

PHOTOGRAPHS BY RICHARD POHLE



Waiting to be mounted on the wall, a chart at North Greenwich (above) lists the new Jubilee Line stations. Each has been commissioned from a different architect by Roland Paoletti



Lobby of Foster's Canary Wharf station, which will handle 22,000 passengers an hour





Will Alsop's North Greenwich station (left); Chris Wilkinson's Stratford station with huge oversailing roof (above, right); and its forecourt (below, right)

The new Jubilee Line stations are likely to be the biggest architectural sensation of their kind since the underground palaces of the Moscow Metro were built to Stalin's lavish specification. But while Moscow is a glittering retro world of marble and chandeliers, London Underground's 11 new Jubilee stations — leading like a necklace towards the Millennium Dome — are airy and dramatically modern.

Credit for this stupendous and imaginative act of patronage goes largely to Roland Paoletti, the architect-in-chief for the Jubilee Line extension, who came to London fresh from building the impressive new Metro in Hong Kong. Paoletti's achievement is to bring architects into an underground world that had hitherto been exclusively the domain of the civil engineer.

The rumour has gone round that the new Jubilee stations are like cathedrals. Not surprisingly (given the £2.9 billion cost of the extension) Paoletti is defensive here. But he fairly points out that the largest stations are cut-and-cover trenches and that filling in the hole above the platform would have been at least as expensive as leaving it as a void.

Most deep stations on the Tube are a maze of tunnels where you lose all sense of direction. No longer. Paoletti's architects have achieved wonders in contriving generous, logically planned concourses below ground in areas which are usually cramped and confused by the vast quantity of unseen equipment that has to be incorporated.

He has sought out architects whose work contains a strong sense of engineering construction. This made Norman Foster an obvious choice, and also Michael Hopkins, who believes intensely that a building's structure should always be on show (and was awarded the prize commission for the new Westminster station).

Paoletti was making these choices in 1990, in the depths of the property recession, when architects were in desperate straits. In these circumstances he considered it morally indefensible to ask one architect to take charge of the project and create a family of stations as Foster did at Bilbao (or Harry Weese in the Washington DC metro). He chose Will Alsop before he got his great commission in Marseilles, and Chris Wilkinson when his only jobs were for low-cost housing. He has used high-tech acrobat Ian Ritchie for Bermondsey.

But it is apparent that Paoletti revers Richard MacCormac as the intellectual among his architects. At Southwark, MacCormac has produced a station like an opera in three acts. The entrance to the sunken rotunda ticket hall is like a descent into a whirlpool, with four flights of concentric steps narrowing into two. MacCormac is a genius with sophisticated concrete finishes, subtly coloured and highly-polished, and here he introduces sparkling chips of quartz.

His masterstroke is a toplit concourse hall connecting with Waterloo East station. Elliptical and conical at the same time, the curving wall is clad in 600 triangular panes of glass that have the colour and pattern of blue pinstripe fabric, designed with the artist Alex Beleschenko. Then, on the opposite wall, three escalators plunge downwards. At the bottom the lower concourse hall, opening on to the platforms, is a shimmering stainless-steel tube, large enough for double-deckers.

At Canary Wharf, Norman Foster had a more straightforward task: setting the station in a trench along an old dock. This will be the second busiest station on the Tube (after Oxford Street) with a capacity of 22,000 passengers per hour. The entrances are giant versions of the transparent "head scarf" canopies that Foster uses in Bilbao. The main one, under Canary Wharf tower, is wide enough to house five parallel escalators and allows sunlight to flood into the 285 metre concourse below. The great feature here is the wave concrete roof, supported by just seven widely spaced columns and cast *in situ*. The result is a structure robust enough to last centuries, with nothing more than an occasional wash.

> 'These architects achieve wonders in contriving generous and logically planned concourses'

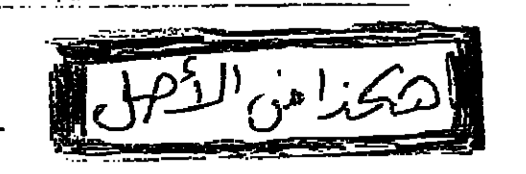
While Foster's architecture is all simplicity and clarity, Will Alsop, in glorious contrast, makes the design and display of every piece of equipment at North Greenwich into an event, whether they are extractor ducts, canopies or service stairs connecting to machinery rooms suspended in space. "It's an architecture of parts," Alsop says. "I am fascinated with the idea of looking up through space and not knowing quite where it ends."

To achieve the maximum platform area, he places his columns in pairs slanting in opposite directions to carry the roof. Deep blues dominate, blue mosaics on the columns and a wall of back-lit glass that is the exact tint of the traditional blue light outside a police station. Here, as at all the new stations, glass screens along the platform prevent passengers falling on the track, with sliding doors that open in sync with the train's.

After the Jubilee Line has crossed beneath the Thames for the fourth time, it emerges at ground level at Stratford, a big interchange with the Central Line, the North London Line and trains to East Anglia. For this, Chris Wilkinson has designed an engineering *tour de force* using steel as expressively as Gustave Eiffel. The huge oversailing roof is supported on sickle-shaped steel beams that shoot out to form a canopy on the other side.

Wilkinson has made his name with what he calls supersheds, and appropriately he has designed the vast service depot for Jubilee trains at Stratford. Inside, five elevated lines allow engineers to walk under trains to inspect the undercarriages, while special jacks enable neighbouring trains to be lifted up bodily four carriages at a time, with three further tracks for cleaning rolling stock.

Repeated delays to the Jubilee Line extension have created a climate of cynicism, but smart new trains in red, white and blue are already making practice runs beneath the Dome. The official line now is that trains will start running between Stratford and North Greenwich in the late spring, continuing all the way to Waterloo in the late summer, with the final link to Westminster and Green Park opening in the autumn. When and if that happens, a one-day Travelcard will buy not only a fast route across the capital, but a tour of some spectacular new British architecture.



Cage stumbles into snuff and nonsense

The real outrage of the puerile thriller *8mm* is that anyone other than adults should be able to see it, writes **Giles Whittell**

It must have been a depressing weekend for Nicolas Cage and Joel Schumacher. First they will have read, or at least heard about, the reviews for *8mm*, which Schumacher directed and Cage starred in. Reviews like: "A movie that will baffle and disgust you in one disconcerting experience" (*The Washington Post*). And: "There are some films whose existence makes the world a worse place to live, and this is one of them" (*Los Angeles Times*). Then, with any luck, they will have begun to realise that on this occasion the critics have a point.

This is a dull, prurient and pernicious film. Stylish trailers for *8mm* had been running for months before its American release on Friday, and thriller junkies had every reason to look forward to it. The title had echoes of guns and syringes as well as the narrow-gauge film to which it actually refers, and the slack-faced Cage has earned a reputation for delivering solid action satisfaction as well as quirky comedy. (One thinks of *Raising Arizona*, but also, secretly, of *Con Air* and *The Rock*.) In the event, Cage looks as if he's on Valium throughout, and the film, besides being oddly plotless for a thriller, reeks of the arrogance of studios and stars.

Cage plays Tom Wells, a well-dressed, well-spoken private eye summoned to a spooky Pennsylvania mansion by the widow of a recently deceased tycoon. She is worried to have found in her late husband's safe an old roll of celluloid on which a terrified teenage girl appears to be killed by a man in a black leather mask, with a machete and gallons of blood. Wells's mission is to find out if the killing really is for real, and it does not reveal too much to say it really is.

He is on the trail of the makers of a snuff movie, a uniquely gruesome pornographic sub-genre that plenty of hoodlums in the film, not to mention in real life, believe exists only in urban legend. Wells learns the truth is otherwise, which messes with his mind and his marriage and gets him into mortal danger in a Los Angeles underworld that Schumacher has spiced, in a rare flash of imagination, with a Marrakesh soundtrack.

Even the best line in *8mm* is not particularly good. As Wells, in research mode, buys up $70-worth of hardcore porn in a Hollywood adult entertainment dungeon, the checkout clerk cheerfully asks: "Sir, could I interest you in a battery-operated vagina?" The clerk is played



by Joaquin Phoenix, brother of the deceased River, who by *8mm*'s standards is a wry, grimy, leather-trousered breath of fresh air. Otherwise the dialogue is extraordinarily lame and the look of the film so relentlessly dark that its darkness ceases to have meaning.

Schumacher may be trying to redeem himself in the eyes of his peers after the garish infantilism of *Batman and Robin*, or he may be exorcising tawdry demons of his own. A former methamphetamine addict, he has spoken candidly of shooting up five times a day in his youth and of being "one of the most promiscuous people on the planet".

He may even know more than the rest of us about *real* snuff movies, and be anxious to alert the world to their evil before it spreads. If so, his film is all the more miserable, because it has the grim distinction of taking on an unspeakable atrocity and failing to make us mind about it.

Could this be why the Motion Picture Association of America did not give *8mm* an NC-17 rating — a commercial kiss of death that bars admission to non-adults and crushed Todd Solondz's vastly more sophisticated *Happiness* last year? Perhaps. But a furious Kenneth Turan, critic of *The Los Angeles Times*, thinks the decision has more to do with the might of Sony Pictures next to the relatively puny MPAA, whose costs the studios help to pay. "The ratings board has become so complicit with the major studios that it can't see the forest for the trees," Turan writes. "It no longer has the stomach to insist that a film that graphically investigates the dehumanising, ultra-violent world of snuff films ought to have an NC-17 placed on it no matter what nips and tucks the studio coyly agrees to make."

There were no such controversies over **The Other Sister**, which came second among new releases at the box office and could not have offered a more extreme contrast to *8mm* in form, content or entertainment value. This poignant confection was directed by Garry Marshall who, like Schumacher, has a reputation for pleasing audiences more than critics, although he goes about it in a rather different way.

In 1989 he sugar-coated a dark, trendy script about a prostitute hired by a businessman for a week and turned it into *Pretty Woman*, one of the most profitable live-action films in history. Marshall likes jokes, schmaltz and, above all, weddings. His next film, Julia Roberts's reunion with Richard Gere in *Runaway Bride*, has five of them. *The Other Sister* has just two.

Both feature Diane Keaton in one of the least sympathetic roles of her career as a buttoned-up San Francisco society mother who first marries off her prettiest daughter in high style, and then looks on as her mentally handicapped daughter gets married whether Mum likes it or not. Juliette Lewis, she of *Cape Fear* and *Natural Born Killers*, plays the other sister of the title — her first big part in three years and one that should ensure her resurrection after a well-publicised struggle with drugs.

But it is Giovanni Ribisi, the medical orderly in *Saving Private Ryan*, who steals the film as Lewis's slow-witted suitor. *The New York Times* called *The Other Sister* "a beautifully acted love story". *People* magazine called it "soft and gooey as a marshmallow". Others complained of being "manipulated", but this is critics' code. It means: I never meant to, but I cried.



Nicolas Cage in *8mm*, a film which takes on an unspeakable atrocity and fails to make us mind about it

US WEEKEND BOX-OFFICE TAKINGS

1	(-)	**8mm** (Columbia)	$14.3m/—
2	(1)	**Payback** (Paramount)	$6.9m/$57.1m
3	(-)	**The Other Sister** (Touchstone)	$6.7m/—
4	(2)	**Message in a Bottle** (Warner)	$6.4m/$32.1m
5	(3)	**My Favourite Martian** (Disney)	$5.2m/$19.9m
6	(4)	**October Sky** (Universal)	$5m/$5.9m
7	(6)	**Shakespeare in Love** (Miramax)	$4.4m/$54.1m
8	(5)	**Blast From the Past** (New Line)	$3.7m/$16.5m
9	(7)	**She's All That** (Miramax)	$3.6m/$49.4m
10	(-)	**200 Cigarettes** (Paramount)	$3.2m/—

● *First amount is estimated weekend takings, Feb 26-28. Second amount is total takings to Feb 23. Figure in brackets indicates last week's position*

BUILDING A LIBRARY

A guide to the best classical recordings in conjunction with BBC Radio 3

■ MAHLER'S SYMPHONY NO 5
Reviewed by David Mellor

Our starting point must be a fragile and heart-warming piece of musical history, Mengelberg's 1926 Concertgebouw recording of the famous, *some might even say notorious, Adagietto. In his hands this movement*, lasting just over seven minutes, is not the tear-stained, death-laden thing that some interpreters since Visconti's *Death in Venice* have made it. Bernard Haitink with the Berlin Philharmonic takes twice as long, and becomes totally becalmed on an ocean of marshmallow.

Bruno Walter knew Mahler well, and attended the premiere of the Symphony in Cologne in 1904. His 1947 performance with the New York Philharmonic takes only 61 minutes as against Haitink's 78, and is indispensable for serious Mahlerians. Recordings of this symphony in the 1970s and 1980s tend towards elephantiasis, but in the 1990s the pendulum has swung back. Claudio Abbado in his second recording with the Berliners in 1993 has completely rethought his interpretation of the Adagietto, now taking only nine minutes as against 12 in his 1980 Chicago recording. Overall Abbado is outstanding, the overall performance on DG a marvellous blend of structural integrity and warmth.

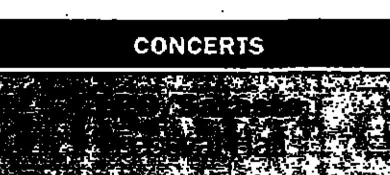
Another splendid recent recording comes from Riccardo Chailly and the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra on Decca, though a slight chilliness in the opening movements robs it of top spot. Barbirolli's 1968 EMI recording is rich, ripe and irreplaceable. High marks also to Tennstedt's 1988 live Festival Hall performance, and Mackerras with the RLPO, also on EMI, is a fine bargain.

But it is **Leonard Bernstein** with the **Vienna Philharmonic** captured live in Frankfurt in 1987 that takes the palm. It is long — 75 minutes — and the Adagietto is riddled with gloom, but Bernstein's complete mastery of Mahler's idiom makes this performance irresistible (DG 423 608-2 £15.99).

● *To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO051, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345-023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk*

● *Next Saturday on Radio 3 (11am): Schumann's* Kreisleriana

Letting us hear his body talk



If a player somehow lost the beat in mid-performance, Jukka-Pekka Saraste's conducting would not provide much of a lifeline. The arms gyrate or glide over the podium. The body wriggles. Is the man from the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra learning to fly, cleaning a windscreen or reaching for a book on a top shelf? No, he is conducting Beethoven's *Eroica*.

Despite Saraste's amusing if ungainly display, the London Philharmonic did more than just keep together. The massive Allegro con brio was bouncy and taut, crescendos surging enough to suggest the shock the work must have given audiences in 1805. The second movement, the Funeral March, found a satisfying balance between pomp, sombre grief and martial display. The trio section over, the music's anguish became dramatically amplified when one of the violinists was taken ill and was carried off.

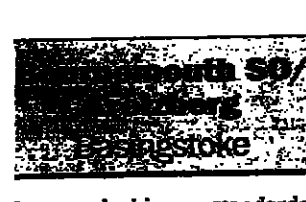
The performance continued in good health: horns refulgent in the scherzo, ebullient radiance in the finale, apart from one lurching rallentando. This was not, finally, an *Eroica* to lift the roof but it was an honest, workmanlike tour round a musical monument.

Before the interval the soprano Rita Cullis sang the finale from Strauss's final opera *Capriccio*. This was not how she had intended spending the evening, but Cheryl Studer, the advertised soloist, had become indisposed with a few hours to spare. Cullis bravely came to the rescue.

Also in this unhappy first half, the Festival Hall's deconstructing acoustic killed off any opulence in the opera's string sextet, and in the orchestral interlude Saraste's gyrating arms could not stop an unmagical solo horn dampening Strauss's effusions. It was Beethoven's night.

GEOFF BROWN

In full measure



IT IS not only the London orchestras that are immersed in Mahler at present: the great symphonist is also one of the strands running through Yakov Kreizberg's work with his Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. Though the BSO is not packaging it as a series, there have been related events, such as the recent Mahler study day, and there was a festive excitement about this concert in which they performed the central Fifth Symphony for the first time together.

Rightly so. Kreizberg's special affinity for 20th-century repertory is rooted in music like this. His authority on the podium and his way of drawing full-blooded yet richly detailed interpretations make him a convincing Mahlerian, but even by his own standards this was something special.

Conducting from memory, Kreizberg took risks but showed real command of the work's structure. His opening of the Funeral March was daringly dark, measured rather than restless, but he also caught the vehemence of its stormy episodes.

He continued this train of thought into the second movement, turbulent except for its nostalgic asides, building with conviction and control. Steering the symphony from its despairing opening to final blaze of affirmation, without giving the game away too soon, he maintained this emotional ambiguity in the Scherzo. He allowed the great theme of the Adagietto to uncoil naturally, moulding the details, without milking it. The finale had sweep, but the triumphant close still came as a surprise.

The platform had been much emptier earlier for an account of Mozart's Violin Concerto No 4 that provided a perfect contrast to Mahler. Kreizberg drew crisp yet warm sound in the Anvil's wonderfully alive acoustics, and ensured good balance with the sweetly expressive tone of the soloist, Pamela Frank. The American violinist performed with easy flair, playing through each phrase to give the music full value. She took the lead in the bittersweet slow movement, and together with Kreizberg set up a lively exchange in the dancing finale.

JOHN ALLISON

Set for a royal liaison

DANCE: Royal Ballet choreographer Michael Corder is on a spectacular roll, **Allen Robertson** reports

He has just plucked the juiciest plum off the tree. The Royal Ballet has invited Michael Corder to choreograph the first new full-length ballet to be danced by the company when it moves back into its renovated home at Covent Garden. A staging of *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, it will be performed to a commissioned score by Richard Rodney Bennett.

Despite a career *that spans 25 years* and includes some 40 ballets, this will be the first time that Corder, 43, has worked with a commissioned score. "My entire inspiration for choreography — emotionally, rhythmically, stylistically, structurally — comes from the music I choose. Music has always *been my canvas. I use it to find* my colours and my textures."

He has wanted to stage this 18th-century drama for nearly a decade now. "Ever since I first had the idea, I have been trying to find the right composer. I have listened to Russian, American, French, even German music, trying to find the right style. Then I stumbled across a piece by Richard.

"I liked his music immediately. He is wonderfully rhythmic and he is not afraid to use melody. And, even though he is now based in New York, he is English to boot. I had never even met Richard when I proposed the idea," adds Corder. "But he said yes immediately."

In this case immediately means February 2002. In between there is much to keep Corder busy. His career is on a roll. English National Ballet recently revived his *Cinderella*, which won both the Olivier and *Evening Standard* awards when it was first staged three years ago. *Romeo and Juliet*, his other full-length Prokofiev staging, will arrive in London in November when the Norwegian National Ballet performs at Sadler's Wells. And tonight his latest piece, *Masquerade*, will be seen as part of the Royal Ballet's *Dance Bites* tour in Bath. Choreographed to the orchestral suite from Stravinsky's *Pulcinella*, it features costumes by Anthony Ward.

> 'This year's cutting edge is next year's passé'

"It is called *Masquerade* because I wanted to make it clear right from the start that this is not *Pulcinella*. There isn't a narrative. I want you to see it as a suite of dances." So Corder *has sidelined* Stravinsky's arch commedia dell'arte scenario. "I like the atmosphere and the smell of those commedia stories, but *Masquerade* is a musical piece coming from a musical standpoint.

"For me," Corder insists, "dance is always about dancing. If you can say something better by writing an opera or a play or doing a film or a musical, then do that. I am interested in pieces that relate to dancing.

"If it doesn't sound too old-fashioned, I do believe dancing is spiritual. It is the beauty and the generosity of the soul expressed through movement. I try to distil that essence in every ballet I do."

Corder has been a part of the Royal Ballet family ever since he started ballet classes there as a child. His first choreographic commission for Covent Garden, *L'Invitation au voyage, was nominated for an* Olivier Award and in the mid-1980s he went on to collaborate with the distinguished painters Patrick Caulfield and Helen Frankenthaler.

But, following a run-in with Frankenthaler's lawyers over *costume designs that Corder* wanted replaced, his professional standing collapsed. "The whole thing blew up in all our faces. I was not treated properly, but I survived."

Now he has come full circle and is back with the Royal Ballet for the first time in 14 years. "That whole mess is finished. You don't forget, but it's important *to move on.*"

Corder is impressed by the current atmosphere at the Royal. "It's a hive of activity at the moment. In my own rehearsals, at least, there is a feeling of optimism. It had all been bumping along the bottom but is now on the way up. Returning to Covent Garden is enormously exciting, a catalyst for a new beginning for the company. Finally, everyone can see that there is light at the end of the tunnel."

Masquerade stars three of the Royal's top ballerinas: Viviana Durante, Miyako Yoshida and Leanne Benjamin. "It has been a joy to work with such fabulous dancers. Their technical expertise, their musicality and their ability to know *how to work is wonderful.*

"I've got more and more Classical as I've got older," Corder adds, when asked to assess his style. "I hope I am upholding a tradition, that I am part of a lineage. That is what I am aspiring to.

"Yes, the Classical language is always changing, but there is a lineage. You need those building blocks. I am not interested in being cutting edge because this year's cutting edge is often next year's passé. Of course I understand that Classical ballet is a branch of showbusiness, but I really think it's important not to dumb down. Any layman can be touched by the power of Classical ballet if the passion, clarity, form and structure are communicated.

"It is not just about me trying to have a terrific career," he adds. "I believe passionately in the uplifting qualities of Classical dance, and in having a good time in the theatre."

● Dance Bites *is at the Theatre Royal, Bath, tonight; a second* Dance Bites *tour is at the Civic Theatre, Darlington, tonight. Tel: 0171-212 9266 for full tour details*

BENN GURR



Michael Corder rehearsing his new ballet *Masquerade* with members of the Royal Ballet: "I've got more and more Classical as I've got older"

Secrets and sulphur

LONDON DANCE ROUND UP

London's Spring Loaded festival of contemporary dance turned the spotlight on two emerging British choreographers last week. Charles Linehan, who last year won the £17,000 Jerwood Award for Young Choreographers, makes a quiet statement with his gentle and unassuming dances. Wayne McGregor, on the other hand, makes a big noise in his mission to prove that dance and technology are great partners.

Linehan's modest programme (at The Place) was a triple bill of secretive and inward-looking pieces. *Number Stations*, a danced semaphore set to short-wave recordings of various intelligence agencies, is a curiosity — and mildly interesting — while *The Secret*, a quartet set to cheesy Hawaiian melodies, is a demure little number that plays with the audience by constantly diverting attention from itself.

The most ambitious item on the bill was *Preludes and Fugues*, set to a piano score by Shostakovich (played live by Marko Martin). A dance for three, it amounts to choreographic small talk, its argument the product of a rather languid intellect.

McGregor's offering, *Sulphur 16*, is a hyperactive 70 minutes of strange and slippery dances for his Random Dance Company (at the Queen Elizabeth Hall) that are as volatile as volcanoes. His 16 darting fragments of dance (each just over four minutes) *throw out the oddest shapes* and most illogical phrases.

Sulphur 16 is the second (the first was *The Millennarium*) in a trilogy devoted to exploring the dance potential of new technologies. McGregor's choreography has been devised with the aid of the computer-animation programme *Poser* and with digital video material which was played in reverse "to give an alternative view of the architecture of the movement". DVD, thermal-imaging cameras and God knows what else went into the soup. Whatever its genesis, the choreography does seem to reach parts of the body other choreographies don't.

McGregor's movement language is restless and unresolved: the dancers give the impression of people tormented by insects. The constant paradoxes in the writing have the effect of disembodying the dancers and as you watch them jab, stab and annoy the performing space you do wonder at the why of it all.

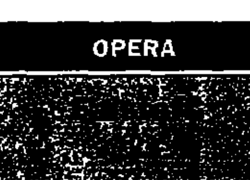
At 70 minutes, the frenzy of body-shocking currents be*gins to read like an exercise in* choreography. The music (credit: Zoviet France) — a more or less constant drone — is a dead zone which only increases the monotony.

Yet McGregor is amazingly inventive and energetic, and *he is clearly* on to something with this technology business. All he needs now is to harness his enthusiasm for all things digital to a more cohesive dance statement.

DEBRA CRAINE

A knight to remember

OPERA



AT THIS stage of his career Bryn Terfel can apparently do no wrong. Every role he under*takes adds another cubit to his* international reputation. Taking on Falstaff for the first time in an unfamiliar house, away from his usual haunts of New York and central Europe, the British baritone was greeted with something close to rap*ture by a first-night audience* that included a sizeable number of wellwishers from his native North Wales.

Although this is his first Falstaff, there was nothing timid or half-hearted about his interpretation of a role he can devel*op at will. He was not afraid to* sing it like the young man he is, and his characterisation of the lecherous knight will obviously deepen with the years. But this will do for starters.

British audiences do not have long to wait to judge for themselves. A new production of *Falstaff*, conducted by Bernard Haitink, will reopen the *Royal Opera House in December*, when Terfel will be again be rolled out of the laundry basket into the Thames. And if the production is as handsome and clear-sighted as the one directed by Simon Phillips, which is now in its fourth year, it will be a happy event.

Falstaff is not an opera that lends itself to absurd representation. There are the merry wives, the lovers, Fenton and Nannetta, beneath the stairs, assorted *buffoons and the* Lord of Misrule himself. All the director has to do is draw the humour that arises naturally, and make sure everybody turns up in Windsor Park on the stroke of midnight. Apart from some coarse acting in the Garter Inn, when the comic exchanges of Bardolfo and Pistola, Falstaff's followers, were anything but funny, Phillips kept a tight rein on the action.

Yvonne Kenny made a splendidly manipulative Alice Ford and Irene Waugh was a win*ning Mistress Quickly. In the* pit, Simone Young conducted this glittering score with both body and weightlessness, excelling in a memorable third act of gossamer delights. Phillips found his best touches for *the Windsor scenes with a set* that could also do service for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. But it was Terfel's night.

Despite his bulk, Terfel's Falstaff has a spring-heeled lightness of touch that suggests the former ducal pageboy could have had a courtly bearing if he had spent less time on the sauce. The knight "*in full summer bloom*" appears, in these hands, to be just that in the first three acts, and it is to Terfel's credit that the autumnal tints stop short of November. His voice, rich, deep, and flexible, is an magnificent instrument. As a vocal *treat and an exercise in stage*craft, it was a knockout and it is coming to London later this year. Lucky old London.

MICHAEL HENDERSON

Goethe turns to lead

THEATRE



In just another six months Goethe will be 250 years old and, if the ensuing celebrations run *true to form*, we *shall* be treated to exhibitions of Goethe in His Time, Goethe in Our Time, Goethe for All Time, some of which will be exciting and some not. But already, one thing is certain. No tribute will be as boringly futile as this dire production by Michael Chase's Mask Studio, based upon a fairytale Goethe wrote at a time when alchemy interested him.

My ears wax over when earnest folk seek to interest me in the gobbledegook of *severatio, conjunctio, coagulatio* and the other alchemical processes, climaxing in the "Royal Marriage", when yummy transformations are supposed to occur and love unites all. But disbelief can always be suspended if the theatrical context is right.

The original Goethe I have seen only in a numbing 19th-century translation, but an adaptation could perhaps be made, in Yeatsian Noh-play *mode, of the story's mysteri*ous elements: the river crossed by the ferryman who must be paid, the snake that swallows the gold, the exiled prince, the lily whose touch kills, the temple rising from the waters, the wonderful bridge. Suitably distilled for the *stage*, we *might* see all this as an image of personal growth, acceptance of opposites and the like. It might even look pretty.

But what Chase and his writer, Michael Burton, have chosen to do, with fatal consequences, is interlard the Goethe episodes with scenes of their own. The idea is to *bring relevance* and show that alchemical principles can inspire us in our modern world. Thus we have a group of travellers stranded at a neglected railway *station waiting for the* delayed midnight train. "The train won't come till you're *ready for it*," observes the porter, smiling under his woolly cap. And indeed, on seven occasions their *36-hour wait is interrupted* by irruptions of Goethe, where the businessman becomes a moping prince, the prostitute turns into the lily, the lady clinging to her porcelain figures becomes the green snake *und so weiter*.

The clonking banality *of* the writing in these modern scenes will be hard to convey. *Just one* example — the porcelain lady (named Beatrice, oh dear) remarks: "Holes appear in life and I am beckoned by nothingness." There are masks, as you would expect from the company's name, which will not persuade sceptics *of the* value of this genre. Chase's idea of the importance of movement *seems primitive* — swaying in unison, that sort of thing.

I *liked the* Ferryman's rowing, and the names of the lovers, Anna Wynnyczuk and Mahatma van der Sloot. I liked the four gongs, although it's ridiculous to have their notes (D, G and so on) pencilled across the front of them. I liked nothing else at all.

JEREMY KINGSTON

POP

Do Gene have legs?

ARTS

LISTINGS

Sarah Kane staged

Rolling with the punch lines

COMEDY: Adam Bloom's diversions down the weirder byways of his mind turn small jokes into big ones, says **Clive Davis**

The mercurial lyrics of *Twisted*, the beboppers' psychoanalysis anthem, uncoiled from the speakers before both halves of Adam Bloom's show at the *Bloomsbury Theatre*. An apt choice. Bloom's verbal flourishes can be every bit as intricate — and as rewarding.

The man is his own best heckler, constantly interrupting his own chain of thought with one well-timed digression after another before slowly edging back to his original theme. The jokes often start out small but soon gather momentum. Reflections on a faulty ballpoint pen lead seamlessly into a cheeky bit of pantomime about the status of women in Saudi marriages. To explain the connection would take up a whole column. Trust me, therefore, that there is a weird logic at work.

> 'He is his own best heckler, disrupting his chain of thought'

Now in the middle of a lengthy solo tour, the London comic walked off with a People's Choice award at the Edinburgh Festival last year. His audience becomes very much part of his act; at one point he jumps off the stage and turns the stalls into his own Speaker's Corner. A spontaneous approach, however, does not always work miracles, especially when stretched across two sets. Exchanging banter with an American, he could not help falling back on tired digs at foreign tourists who mispronounce Leicester Square.

The general level of inspiration dipped markedly after the interval. Bloom's deconstructionist tendencies, never that far from the surface, tended to undercut the punch lines. "I'm not funny any more, am I?" he asked at one stage. Spoken in jest, but a dangerous question all the same. Obsessed with the nuts and bolt of raising laughter, he risked being mistaken for the over-clever narrator of a Martin Amis novel. His finale — a comedy version of those kitsch transatlantic guides to the secrets of the magicians' trade — only served to draw attention to the fact that the jokes were not quite strong enough in the first place.

But the rest of the evening had been an engaging blend of the cerebral and the everyday. He has the intelligence of an academic and the instincts of a pub-quiz contestant. A Lad lurks in there too, though he is generally kept on a tight leash.

Bloom wears his Jewishness lightly, mulling over his relationship with a mother who is still capable of sending a Valentine's card. Death can suddenly beat its wings in the air, but he assuages moments of existential dread with the thought that God, far from being omnipotent, may be a contestant struggling against the clock on *The Generation Game*.

Schooldays provided another recurrent theme as he recalled the humiliation of being outshone by the class genius. He is very good, too, at catching the elusive instant when childhood's blind optimism starts to give way to reality. The boy leaps at an invitation to a party; the adult starts fretting about how few people he will know there.

The adolescent within had its opportunity to shine when, for no very obvious reason, he challenged himself to a duel with a Rubik's Cube. He won, his fingers spinning in all directions.

By now the music had switched to The Who's *Pinball Wizard* — the perfect soundtrack to accompany a pinball mind.



Full bloom: Adam Bloom combines "the intelligence of an academic with the instincts of a pub-quiz contestant"

Bit of beef on the bone

POP

GIG number five of a 27-date British tour that will occupy Gene throughout March took place in a function room that looked ready for a wedding reception. And there are those who feel that the band, whose third full-length album *Revelations* was released yesterday, are playing on while the guests are rattling their keys and saying their goodbyes.

Gene have toiled deep in the mineshaft of British rock for some five years, and while not without reward, have never quite struck the seam that would ensure wider recognition. They have spent almost as much time sidestepping accusations of being too foppish, too Morrissey-obsessed, too timelocked in Britpop as they have building a body of songs that is easily dismissed but, especially on this showing, surprisingly resilient.

There never will be any getting away from their artistic kinship with the former Smith, but while the fey vulnerability of some of Gene's early songs betrays that lineage, they have developed a more solid backbone. The piano motif of *You'll Never Walk Again*, the last song on *Revelations*, heralded their arrival, as the curtain lifted to reveal that the tune was being picked out by Mick Talbot, once Paul Weller's ivory-tinkler in the Style Council.

Not that many of the student-filled audience were old enough to remember. "He looks about 40," said one. Guilty as charged: Talbot is indeed 40, and called on his wide experience to augment the group's standard four-piece to good effect. Aptly, perhaps, the song that followed his introduction was *Where Are They Now?*.

Gene may have a decade or so on him, but they do a better line in melancholy than boisterousness. Lead singer Martin Rossiter remains a debonair if downbeat frontman, and there was much to enjoy in new songs such as *Mayday* and *Something in the Water*.

The most vociferous response was for *Speak to Me Someone*, the smash-that-never-was from their last album, *Drawn to the Deep End*. That compelling ballad represented the big idea that could have projected Gene beyond their own constituency. Home support remains robust, but without the element of surprise, their window of wider opportunity now seems just a fanlight.

PAUL SEXTON

Lassi let off the leash

Jimi Tenor
Improv, W1

THE Finnish musician Jimi Tenor is said to have arrived on stage at recent gigs atop a white stallion and sporting a 50ft silver cape. His entrance at London's Improv — a comedy club too small to accommodate a horse — was low-key in comparison, but striking nevertheless. Wearing a sequined, electric-blue suit, 1970s-style shades and an oddly-shaped, sparkly hat draped in yards of pink chiffon, he took his place behind a Hammond organ to the sound of funky house beats and a squalling saxophone.

An enigmatic musical misfit, Tenor — whose real name is Lassi Lehto — single-handedly writes, arranges and records distinctive songs which mix mid-tempo techno, modern jazz and loungecore with 1970s funk, film noir and Eno-esque electro effects. Also an artist, he has been a cult figure both at home and abroad since the release two years ago of his first album, *Intervision*.

Playing a one-off British gig to promote its follow-up, *Organism*, launched last week, Tenor attracted a capacity crowd of scruffy students, trendy twentysomethings and conservative couples, a strange sight even by his own high standards.

The show opened with *Year of the Apocalypse*, originally recorded with a Finnish choir and due out soon as *Organism's* first single. Throughout the misleadingly titled track — an upbeat, infectious fusion of jazz, Funkadelic-like grooves and lyrics about celebrating life — Tenor stayed seated at the organ. The following hour of so, however, saw him frequently stroll to centre stage to sing into a microphone which distorted his atonal vocals or layered them in echo. Sometimes he sounded like George Benson, sometimes David Byrne. When he whispered, he could have been Jarvis Cocker. Mostly, though, he sounded like a Dalek.

Backed by a three-piece brass section, a keyboardist and a bassist, Tenor breezed through about a dozen songs chosen from both his albums. Highlights included the *Organism* opener *Total Devastation*, which had the entire audience dancing, and the early single *Sugar Daddy*, which closed the show to rapturous applause. Unusually subdued, Tenor — who had exchanged his flashy suit for jeans — simply sauntered offstage, ignoring calls for an encore.

During the performance, he had drunk glass after glass of champagne, served to him on a silver tray by a glamorous girl. Perhaps the alcohol had gone straight to his head.

LISA VERRICO

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

THE RETURN OF DON JUAN: World premiere of Kim Brandstrup's updated version of the classic tale with a new score by Kim Helweg. Former Royal Ballet star Irek Mukhamedov joins the Arc Dance Company in the role of the notorious rake.
Sadler's Wells (0171-713 6000). Tonight, 7.30pm.

THREE DAYS OF RAIN: Elizabeth McGovern heads the cast of Richard Greenberg's play, greatly liked at the Manhattan Theatre Club last year. Robin Lefevre directs this journey back to 1960.
Donmar Warehouse (0171-369 1732). Opens tonight, 7pm.

SLAVA'S SNOWSHOW: The excellent Russian clown returns bringing with him new material as well as Angela de Castro, and his unforgettable finale.
Piccadilly (0171-369 1734). Opens tonight, 7pm.

THE TSARINA'S SLIPPERS: The Guildhall School of Music and Drama unearths another rare operatic gem. Tchaikovsky's colourful tale, directed by Stephen Medcalf, is a co-production with the London Contemporary Dance School. Four nights only.
Barbican (0171-638 8891). Opens tonight, 7pm.

TANGO!: The sultry sounds of Astor Piazzolla can be savoured as Latvian violin virtuoso Gidon Kremer gets to grips with the works of the great Argentinian tango master.
Queen Elizabeth Hall (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7.45pm.



Irek Mukhamedov dances at Sadler's Wells

ELSEWHERE

GLASGOW: The late Sarah Kane's controversial **Phaedra's Love** radically and brutally reworks the classical myth. Peter Mackie Burns directs for Ghostown. For the strong of stomach only.
Citizens' (0141-429 0022). Opens tonight, 7.30pm.

NOTTINGHAM: Northern Ballet Theatre's modern take on Carmen, *Bizet's immortal tale of fatal attraction*, makes its first stop on the company's current UK tour.
Theatre Royal (0115 989-5555).

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON: Four children isolated since birth are brought together to see what happens. Neil Bartlett directs Marivaux's cold-hearted drama, **The Dispute**.
The Other Place (01789 295623). Opens tonight, 7pm.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only ◪ Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

□ **BAREFACED CHIC:** Fascinating Aida play here for a month before setting off on their latest national tour. This time Clarke Peters directs.
Royal, Haymarket (0171-930 8800).

□ **TALK OF THE CITY:** Stephen Poliakoff's potentially fascinating play about BBC censorship in the 1930s. With David Westhead and a charismatic Angus Wright.
Young Vic (0171-928 6363).

□ **THE FOREST:** Alan Ayckbourn adapts Ostrovsky's sardonic 1870 comedy, with Michael Feast's impoverished actor trying to impress his rich aunt (Frances de la Tour).
Lyttelton (0171-452 3000).

□ **PADDY IRISHMAN, PADDY ENGLISHMAN AND PADDY...?:** Two Irish exiles in Kilburn fall in with some hard men: Anthony Clark's Birmingham Rep production arrives here.
Tricycle (0171-328 1000).

□ **THE PRISONER OF SECOND AVENUE:** Richard Dreyfuss and Marsha Mason make their British stage debuts in Neil Simon's 1971 comedy, not seen here till now.
Richmond (0181-940 0088).

□ **EL QUIJOTE:** Start of the Gate's new "Idiots" season: David Johnston's new adaptation of Cervantes, directed by Marta Momblant Ribas.
Gate Theatre (0171-229 0706).

□ **THE GREEN SNAKE:** Mask Studio's interpretation of Goethe's fairy tale The Green Snake and the Beautiful Lily, with puppets and, of course, masks. See review, page 20.
Riverside Studios (0181-237 1111).

□ **THE NUALAS:** Irish all-girl satirical singing trio bring harmony, hilarity and a sharp look at humanity.
Drill Hall (0171-637 8270).

□ **SHOCKHEADED PETER:** Wonderfully sinister show by the Cultural Industry team with the Tiger Lilies and Martyn Jacques's falsetto screech.
Lyric (0181-741 8701/2311).

◪ **OKLAHOMA!:** National Theatre transfer of Trevor Nunn's Rodgers and Hammerstein.
Lyceum (0171-416 6089).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

THE THIN RED LINE (15): A glittering cast of American soldiers lose their sanity in the South Pacific during the Second World War. Terrence Malick's first film for 20 years is an artistic masterpiece. With Sean Penn, Jim Caviezel, Ben Chaplin, Nick Nolte.

YOUVE GOT MAIL (PG). Bullet-proof romantic blockbuster with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan who fall in love on the Internet. Written and directed by Nora Ephron.

PAINTED ANGELS (15): Bleak period piece about the prostitutes who serviced the frontiersmen of the Wild West. A joyless plod between the smelly punters and the drab wooden rooms by Jon Sanders.

TITANIC TOWN (15): Julie Walters excels as a pugnacious Catholic housewife in this grim review of Northern Ireland's Troubles circa 1972. Roger Michell directs.

PERDITA DURANGO (18): Rosie Perez and Javier Bardem are two Tex-Mex pyschopaths who run amok in a careless road movie involving voodoo, frozen foetuses and drugs. Alex de la Iglesia directs.

URBAN LEGEND (18). Dire Jamie Blanks horror flick that slashes through an American campus with the help of a migraine-inducing orchestra.

CURRENT

AFFLICTION (15): Paul Schrader's bruising portrait of a frustrated small-town cop. Nick Nolte and James Coburn put in powerful performances as father and son caught in a cycle of male violence.

THIS YEAR'S LOVE (18): David Kane's buzzy comedy charts the mess six Camden Town misfits make of their love lives among the junk stalls. With Kathy Burke, Jennifer Ehle, Douglas Henshall, Dougray Scott, Catherine McCormack and Ian Hart.

HOLY MAN (PG). Eddie Murphy's naive spiritual guru and Jeff Goldblum's sleazy TV executive team up to sell inferior products on a shopping channel. Director Stephen Herek flogs the satire rather less keenly than his big name stars.

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (PG): Roberto Benigni's romantic Second World War fable stitches a disturbing comedy into the Holocaust. Supremely well acted but the comic treatment of the struggle to survive in a death camp is at best nauseating.



The Tories, on a hiding to nothing

Labour's last landslide was only a start, predicts **Gerald Kaufman**

Straw in the doghouse (say some). Cook and Lloyd in trouble with the Foreign Affairs Select Committee. Fears about GM foods cut Labour's opinion poll lead. Yet that lead is still far higher than on election day in May 1997. And Tony Blair's phenomenal popularity endures, while that of William Hague explores previously unknown depths.

"Ah," say the wiseacres (as they have been saying since Blair succeeded as Labour leader in 1994), "it can't last." Mid-term blues are sure to set in, the Tories will recover support and, even if Labour wins the next election, it will be with a reduced majority.

Really? Why? We are in mid-term already, with a general election quite likely the year after next. Although the Government still seems brand new, it has been in office for a year and ten months. Yet, although some of its ratings have been dented by recent controversies, its predominance over the Conservatives continues, with the Liberal Democrats as almost irrelevant also-rans. All the objective evidence points to a landslide even greater than that of 1997.

In 1997 I told Tony Blair he would obtain at least 400 Labour MPs, and he did not believe me, expecting a majority of about 50. Yet not only the opinion polls but canvassing evidence pointed to an enormous Labour win. Sir John Gorst believed me sufficiently to put money on his Labour opponent gaining the Hendon seat he had held for 27 years; he won his bet.

So inbred was the Labour Party's culture of defeat that even senior members could not bring themselves to credit the possibility of the historic win they went on to achieve. Similarly, despite the 1997 landslide and the continuing popularity of the Government, some ministers gaze at me as if I were mad when I assure them that the party will gain seats at the next election.

Yet the likelihood of such a victory is obvious. For anyone with eyes to see, the entire British political landscape has been transformed. From 1945 to 1997, inclusive, that landscape was easily discernible. On the left was Labour. On the right were the Tories. In between were the Liberals, or whatever they happened to be calling themselves at the time, bestowing their fickle favours.

Now, however, the Liberal *Democrats have become the* left-wing party, taking over from the discredited and impotent hard-Left remnant inside the Parliamentary Labour Party the advocacy of increased social spending and increased taxes to pay for it. If that profligate attitude were alone insufficient to make alliance with the Tories impossible, the Lib Dems' extreme pro-Europeanism makes any association with the Eurosceptic Conservative leadership inconceivable.

The Lib Dems are now, despite their increased Commons representation, a Parliamentary appendage of new Labour. One Lib Dem MP complained to me: "The Labour Party are taking us for a ride." I replied: "Yes; but it's the only ride you've got."

As for the Conservatives, they have turned themselves into a fringe party, weaker even than Labour was after its 1983 longest-suicide-note debacle. Even after that worst electoral setback in its history, Labour's continued existence was necessary, since there were millions of voters who would have been unrepresented without it; the poor, the deprived, the unemployed, the ethnic minorities. There is, on the other hand, no significant element in society which would be unrepresented if the Tories shut up shop, especially since we now have a very different sort of Labour Party.

Under Margaret Thatcher the Tories were an exclusive party — motto, "Those who are not with us are against us" — who triumphed because their opponents were divided. Under Tony Blair, Labour is inclusive, with the motto: "Those who are not against us may be with us." New Labour is not the centre party, but the centre-of-gravity party, with Blair daily adjusting the tiller to maintain his Government's dominance of British politics, with the Tories and Liberals filling the spaces he does not choose to occupy.

> Ambitious Tory MPs should consider a new career

Moreover, those spaces are liable to contract. Labour's 1997 landslide, though overwhelming, was incomplete. Because of the residue of the extremism and division that pervaded Labour until Blair took over, many voters feared that the old Labour Party wolf lurked beneath the new Labour carapace. Two years of new La*bour Government have ban*ished that phantom.

Many 1997 Conservatives may also vote for Blair next time because he, unlike Hague, is leaving the door to a single European currency open. A recent MORI poll showed that one third of Conservative voters would support a pro-euro Conservative Party; such a party is liable to siphon off Tory votes — and maybe seats — in this year's European elections conducted on a proportional representation system. In a first-past-the-post general election, Tory Europhiles might turn to Labour. Furthermore, a substantial proportion of 1997's 46 Lib Dem victors were elected partly on Labour tactical votes. Voters in some of those constituencies might decide to have real new Labour rather than its surrogate.

The scene, then, is set for a huge Labour victory at the next election. If, this spring, the Tories make headway in the local, Welsh, Scottish and even European elections, we shall be told that the Conservatives have made a comeback. Labour made big gains in the local and European elections in the 1980s, but was trounced in Parliamentary elections. Ambitious Tory MPs should look to alternatives to the ministerial careers they will never have.

The author is Labour MP for Manchester Gorton

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"IT'S NOT THE TIME OFF THAT MATTERS...

STRAW HOLIDAY ROW

...IT'S SPENDING IT IN **EUROPE!**"

No laughing matter

In an age of sneering, Post-Modernist cynicism, we have forgotten the joke

Libby Purves

As chilly gales rake the land and the Home Secretary sweeps back to chastise us, I offer two cheerful pieces of news on the nation's moral health. One is that the first edition of *The Beano*, a limp relic from 1938, has sold after a frenzied auction for the record sum of £6,200, complete with free Whoopee Mask and a cast of characters including Big Eggo the Ostrich, Ping the Elastic Man, Hank the Slapdash Sheriff and Uncle Windbag.

A sentimental tear springs to the eye. We shall not look upon their like again! Or perhaps, come to think of it, the tear is brought on by the fact that we look upon their like rather too often. For what is that weekly contest across the dispatch boxes, if not a *duel* between *Ping the Elastic Man* and the bald-pated ostrichian figure of Big Eggo himself?

Meanwhile Uncle Windbag jets home from the Riviera to lecture us all on our failures of citizenship, and his sidekick, Hank the Slapdash Sheriff — Shriek! Gnash! Aargh! — manages to put a dummy security camera on the most sensitive site in London. *The Beano* got there first, as ever.

The other encouraging cultural news is from a conference at the National Film Theatre: the *Carry On* films are having a youth revival. Dr Andrew Medhurst, of Sussex University, informs us that students no longer despise such classics as *Carry On Camping*, but embrace them. "In Blair's Britain," he says, "we're always being told to be decent upstanding citizens. It's no surprise that people turn to something that says 'Sod that. Let's get drunk and have a bit of a grope and a laugh'."

Well, *he may be right, although* drinking and groping have not exactly vanished from the TV schedules. Myself, I offer an opposing analysis. I think we are nostalgic for the *Carry On* films for the same reason that we treasure *The Beano:* we are bored with freedom, and nostalgic for rules and for a time when it really was fun to send up authority and respectability, because both could be taken comfortably for granted. As the century ends in an atmosphere of sneering, debunking and joyless sexual mayhem, we are homesick for lost boundaries.

It is no fun being Dennis the Menace if there is no furious Dad to chase you with a slipper. The contemplation of foul-mouthed ladettes may make us yearn to hear Barbara Windsor squeak "Blimey!" again; the age of angsty, chippy professional superwomen might well bring on a sneaking nostalgia for the majestic confidence of Matron Hattie Jacques, bearing down on her victim with an giant enema. There is nothing like a background of stability and dullness to make jokes shine.

Look how moist-eyed Britain became upon the death of dear Derek Nimmo, the hopeless Rev Noote of *All Gas and Gaiters:* we were reminded of the sheer fun to be had from mocking the clergy in the days when it was brave. Then, the BBC trembled; today Dawn French can portray a man-crazy Vicar of Dibley with hardly a frisson (but fewer laughs). Remember when cinemas rocked with wicked laughter at James Robertson Justice playing the consultant Sir Lancelot Spratt, or Alastair Sim impersonating a headmistress. Where are the awesome figures of authority now? Spitting Images, every one, assumed to be discredited before they even begin; endlessly renewable *fodder for the dry, mirthless, Post-*Modern ironies of the Angus Deayton age.

We have lost the true pleasures of baiting sacred cows because the only sacred cows now are PC ideologies, whose ascendancy can be challenged only by being nasty about the vulnerable. The beauty of mocking authority, from *The Beano* to *Sgt Bilko*, was that authority could take it: the best jokes stood up for fallible, naughty humanity, rather than doing it down.

Remember the radio classic *Round the Horne*, in which a notionally strait-laced Britain revelled in the mincing innuendo of Julian and Sandy and their perennial cry of "Ooh, in'nee bold!"? That heady sense of baffling the censor is lost today, when Channel 4 seems hardly even bold in showing the seduction of a 15-year-old boy by an older man, and even teenagers groan "Oh no, not another transsexual prostitute" as they zap away from the BBC to a multisexual punch-up on Jerry Springer.

There is nothing to be daring about, now. My favourite birthday present is an original copy of the BBC Variety Programmes Policy Guide for 1948, including the famous: *Absolute ban upon Jokes about the following: Lavatories: Effeminacy in men; Immorality of any kind. Suggestive reference to: Honeymoon couples; Chambermaids; Fig leaves; Prostitution; Ladies underwear, e.g. winter draws on; Animal habits, e.g. rabbits: Lodgers; Commercial travellers.*

It adds that "the vulgar use of such words as 'basket' must also be avoided" and bans Bible jokes, with the mysterious exception of those about Noah. Against that background it is easy to see why a golden age of comedy bloomed in the 1950s.

The best analysis comes from George Orwell, writing in 1942 about *the postcards of Donald McGill. He* contrasts them with American and continental cartoons and notes their moral core: "Whereas in papers like *Esquire* or *La Vie Parisienne*, the imaginary background of the jokes is always promiscuity, the utter breakdown of all standards, the background of the McGill postcard is marriage. The four leading jokes are nakedness, illegitimate babies, old maids and newly married couples, none of which would seem funny in a really dissolute or even "sophisticated society."

He cites the joke of a young husband getting out of bed the day after the wedding, with inset the picture of the front doorstep bearing four days' newspapers and milk, and observes: "Its implication — and this is just the implication that *Esquire* or *The New Yorker* would avoid at all costs — is that marriage is something profoundly exciting and important, the biggest event in the average human being's life. So also with jokes about nagging wives and tyrannous mothers-in-law. They do at least imply a stable society in which marriage is indissoluble and family loyalty taken for granted."

McGill and the rest, Orwell said, represented a safety-valve, a necessary raspberry blown at inspirational "speeches of Prime Ministers, solidarity songs of public schools and left-wing political parties, national anthems, Temperance tracts, papal encyclicals and sermons against gambling and contraception". Yet in *that* wartime year, he saw them against a background of an essentially solid community: "Nevertheless the high sentiments always win in the end; leaders who offer blood, toil, tears and sweat always get more out of their followers than those who offer safety and a good time. When it comes to the pinch, human beings are heroic.

"Women face childbed and the scrubbing brush, revolutionaries keep their mouths shut in the torture chamber, battleships go down with their guns still firing when their decks are awash. It is only that the other element in man, the lazy, cowardly, debt-bilking adulterer who is inside all of us, can never be suppressed altogether and needs a hearing occasionally . . ." That 1940s world and its values are now quite gone.

Forty-seven years on, we speak more often of our *right to* be well-*treated than* of our duty to be good, still less heroic. Maybe the lazy, grumbling, promiscuous, promise-breaking, debunking creature has broken too far out. Maybe our nostalgia for the comedy of the sober and dutiful mid-century years recognises that. The innocence of the jokes brings back the days when Joe Englishman was still on his best behaviour, still met adversity with "mustn't grumble" and "worse things happen at sea", and needed McGill and *The Beano* and Frankie Howerd and Sid James to blow his raspberries for him. Today everything is a grumble or a raspberry. It gets less funny by the day.

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THE TIMES DIARY

The love of Mike

DIANE ABBOTT starred with *Michael Portillo and played the* Tory's wife in a school play, I have learnt. The lefty MP was at Harrow County Girls, while Portillo, both pictured, was at the boys' school. The production also saw a buccaneering Clive Anderson. Hitherto, Jonathan Aitken, godfather to Diane's son, was believed to be the only dashing right-winger she would let near her balcony.

"I also offered her Lady Macduff in my *Macbeth* film," says Portillo. "Sadly, the jumbles failed to raise enough finance." Some say she also played Juliet to Michael's Romeo, but she slams this as "FO smears" (she has been pestering about arms to Africa). "I did play opposite Portillo — but not as his lover."




A KUWAITI prince popped into Heathrow's duty-free for a spot of therapy recently. He spent £6,500 on 49 bottles each of cognac, gin and whisky, having them wrapped in cigarette boxes — to "ease their passage" into the dry kingdom.

■ EGO overload in Piccadilly, where Richard Branson's plan for a "mega-bar" has been blocked. His "giant entertainment centre" was to join Oliver Peyton's Atlantic Bar and Marco Pierre White's Titanic in the gloomy Regent Palace Hotel.

Branson hoped to set up a series of private "lounges" (oh dear) but planners might be worried about the flurry of writs Peyton has issued against other caterers on the site, claiming he is solely entitled to trade there.

BATTERED ministers moan that Sir William Macpherson of Cluny has had an easy ride from the race lobby, despite his bracing immigration record: "He was the kind of judge," jokes a minister, "who would decide a case by asking 'smoking or non-smoking?' and send the blighter back on the next plane." Bunkum, I'm sure.

■ THE dodgy general set to rule Nigeria learnt his trade from Ken Livingstone and his GLC cronies. Olusegun Obasanjo, whose "victory" has been questioned amid churlish vote-rigging claims, was chums with Illtyd Harrington, Ken's deputy during his reign in London. "He helped me with the Buddhist peace pagoda in Battersea," says Illtyd. "He was strangely keen to help." I trust he did not try to teach Ken about ballot-rigging.

DONNISH scenes at Magdalen, Oxford. As swells rumbled towards dinner (to mark the opening of a new auditorium) a kerfuffle broke out over a gown between Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, Chancellor, and Lord Neill of Bladen. Finally, the latter grabbed it: "Its mine! It belonged to Harold Macmillan."



■ LORD SALISBURY was a greater Tory PM than Disraeli, a forthcoming biography by Andrew Roberts will claim. The fashionable historian argues in an early proof that the peer was even more Machiavellian in clambering up the greasy pole. Roger Scruton agrees. "Salisbury was the most successful PM we have had because we know nothing about him," says the editor of the *Salisbury Review*. "He left the country as he had found it, the ideal politician. If it required cunning and intrigue, so be it. I admire Disraeli but he hardly left the world unnoticed." Such are the perverse criteria for being a Tory great.

SILLY claims that the BBC is in bed with Labour take a strange turn. No sooner than Lance Price leaves his slot as a Beeb toiler to help Alastair Campbell stamp out dissent, but Bill Bush, the BBC's election chief, jumps in beside them working in the Strategic Communications Unit. Most rum.

JASPER GERARD

'The Internet is not all listed buildings and photos of roses and Prince William — 90 per cent of Internet traffic is devoted to pornography'

Richard Tyrrell

The cyber future is on us and if you are not online by now you may as well be dead. If you have no e-mail address you're a walking piece of history, as out of date as papyrus. The launch of the Pentium III is here, technology so advanced it makes jet planes look like carthorses. The latest generation of microchip processors is already causing a huge fall in the price of existing PCs. The entire national heritage — 360,000 listed buildings — is to go on the Internet. And, best of all, computers are to be free. Compaq has announced that it is seriously considering the idea; Free-PC is giving away 10,000 computers to anyone willing to use them for ten hours a week.

The Internet is simply the most powerful force in society. Business? Do it on the Web. Shares? Buy them on the Web. Books? Read them on the Web. Films? Watch them on the Web. Clip your toenails? Do it in front of a webcam on your PC, so others can share the experience.

Few indeed are the Luddite voices speaking out against the Internet. I know of a few old novelists and poets — all over 50 — who still write their books with pen and ink (extracts can usually be read on the Web). There are many elderly people who don't know what Microsoft Explorer is. That's OK. There are plenty of Web tutorials.

But perhaps it is time to remind ourselves that all is not right with the Internet. The technology is fine, but is the public mature enough for 100 per cent access to what amounts to a free-for-all? Aren't there social issues surrounding the content of the Internet? Do we know what its effects will be?

Let us remember that the Internet is not all listed buildings and photos of roses and Prince William. According to my *Rough Guide to the Internet*, 1999 edition, 90 per cent of Internet traffic is devoted to pornography. A great many men buy PCs and worse — webcameras — primarily for sexual gratification.

Anyone who has logged on to the family zone of Microsoft NetMeeting, as I have, and found themselves chatting to somebody named "Hairy Hound" (who has sat for two hours in front of his PC in his underwear), will quickly recognise that the Net is the natural home of voyeurs.

It is also, far more seriously, the natural home of child pornographers and extremists. Child pornographers are clever enough to stay one step ahead of the police by setting up their services in countries with poor law enforcement — Iran, or Russia. A favourite ruse is to attach their wares to legal porn sites by means of the serial link — that is, when you click on an icon your PC automatically opens up a haze of other Web sites. Among these will be the bestiality, rape, or child-abuse site. Surfers foolish enough to stray into this territory — from curiosity or rebelliousness — are likely to find themselves carrying the mental scars for a long time.

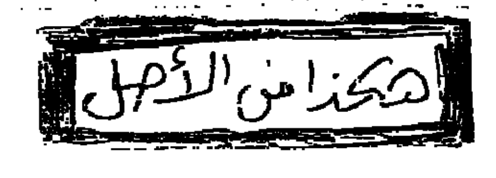
Similarly, it is simply to link to pages of political hate groups. The ideas of neo-Nazis or white supremacists look comic in the cold light of day. And they would be, were it not that these people are organised, and still finding recruits. What those recruits do is a secret only the initiated know. Yaron Svoray, who wrote a book on European neo-Nazism, described how his own initiation included being guest of honour at a snuff movie and having a gun held jokingly to his head.

Neo-Nazis, such as the group surrounding the sinister Friedhelm Büsse in Germany, are quite frank about their plans to become "respectable". To build links with established right-wing groups, to gain credibility, as the far Right has done in France, and to come out as full-blown Nazis only when the time is right. With limited resources, the surest way of spreading the word is on a free, worldwide media.

Seth Warshavsky, a 25-year-old porn millionaire, has claimed that the Internet is normalising porn. It may well normalise hate, too. It may normalise a lot of things that are not socially desirable. It is already encouraging onanism, and rapidly ousting the popularity of phone sex. Most Web users are capable of leading routine, well-balanced lives (even if they do a bit of naughty surfing). It is the lonely, whose only outlet is their imagination, who are more at risk. In their search for the new image, the virtual friend, the fresh idea, the more risqué photo, one can see the fault-lines where child pornography or political extremism may find a convert.

So while the Cyber Age is still in the ascendant, let's have pause for thought. The Internet is a place of creativity but no poetry; of high ideals and low instincts. If we embrace it and praise it unquestioningly, we collude with its child abusers and haters. A great deal of work remains to be done on its dimly lit zones

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CARE FREE

A Royal Commission of royal extravagance

›ays before the general election. Tony 'air accused the Conservative Government of forcing "thousands of pensioners sell their homes to pay for long-term ". "Pensioners deserve better than " Mr Blair stated. A Royal Commis-vas promised to recommend how the ›ning cost of looking after an ageing ition might be met. After over a deliberation, its 12 members could e on a way forward. Yesterday the produced proposals which, in-ıckling the core problems, would ›mmit future governments to public expenditure. Only two dissenting from these old La-ts to trust the State, argued that to this complex problem lies ivate, not public, hands. The should on this occasion listen minority.

: of the current system are who have been prudent e for old age, and whose £16,000, are not entitled to to pay for care in nursing or nes. As a result, every year, ›ensioners have to sell their Their sense of injustice is · the lottery of illness: r a patient with cancer is the NHS, while nursing . patient with Alzheimer's

ıpathy and willingness to ›blems is tempered by the of doing so. Already, long ıe State about £7 billion a he system is changed, uish and bills will rise · growing proportion of ›y 2031, about one in five of will be over retirement age. conundrum, the majority of nission did indeed think the ut not in the way that the intended. Its proposal that d fund the care and social ıg and residential homes payers over £6 billion by 2051. Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, has wisely kicked this into the long grass of public debate. No amount of government spending is likely to satisfy the public's expectations of what the State should provide. Such an explosion in expenditure would do little to help the less well-off, whose care bills the State already covers, but might provoke a rise in demand for free care and deter people from taking out private insurance. If they want help with their living costs, elderly people will still be means-tested; so some might still need to sell their homes. Overall, the chances are that a future government would abolish such a scheme, unable to meet spiralling costs without hefty rises in taxation.

Fortunately, two members of the commission, David Lipsey and Joel Joffe, were not tempted to follow their colleagues into this high-spending nirvana. Their minority report is predicated on the more realistic notion that the State cannot — and should not — promise to pay for all the costs of long-term care. Dissent has produced some imaginative ideas. For example, they suggest a state-sponsored scheme to enable elderly people to borrow against the value of their home to fund care. Mr Lipsey proposes that no one should have to fund their care in a residential or nursing home for more than four years, making it easier for people to save or insure for their future.

Commonsense schemes like these would create new incentives for people to take care of themselves. Yet such tinkering amounts to a nudge in the direction of the private sector, when a forceful push is required. Across Europe, governments face the same dilemma of how diminishing workforces might support the growing band of elderly people in the next millennium. The Government is right to be cool towards the majority report's solution, which would help to bankrupt the nation. But the existing unfair, antiquated system is bankrupting thousands of prudent pensioners. The ball is once more back in the Government's court to think the unthinkable.

HOPE FOR NIGERIA

. clear election result but a clouded future

have been accusations of ars of independence, there ı a single fair or clean igeria. But despite the European and American is clear that Olusegun former military ruler, was ıing winner as the next nt, even if all fraudulent ınted. His victory is a rare ation in a country that has mocracy, almost no good l is seen as one of the most world. He takes office in a Herculean challenge to African equivalent of the

e up to the task. A gruff who won distinction as a ıander, he has a national : goes beyond tribal alle-ears of domination by the : of the few southerners who ountry. He is less popular in ba heartland than in other ia: *that is a measure of his* not to allow the old tradi-l partiality to cloud his appointments. Three years riticising the military have ›utation for decency.

ate job is to keep Nigeria's eir barracks and root out e abused their position. This · of the clique around Sani mer military dictator, made ough the plunder of the alth and the manipulation of xchange and import regulations. They did not expect General Abdulsalami Abubakar to allow any democratic elections, still less to set in train the retribution that must now follow years of democratic and human rights abuses. Sullen and fearful, they are itching to stage a new coup. Mr Obasanjo must use all his military and moral authority to enforce his will.

The harder, longer-term job is the rebuilding of the shattered economy. Social services have collapsed, hospitals, schools and roads are crumbling, legitimate business is impossible. In one of Africa's richest countries, millions now live in poverty. Rooting out corruption is an urgent but slow job: so ingrained is the practice that few now understand how to do business or administer government cleanly. The repair of the oil industry must be a priority: but the low oil price, the environmental devastation already caused to the Delta and the sometimes well-founded suspicion against multinationals all make it harder to generate wealth from the *ground.*

Mr Obasanjo can count on international support: Europe and the Commonwealth should end remaining sanctions as swiftly as possible, and the rest of Africa will rally to Nigeria. Mobilising domestic support will be harder. The refusal by Olu Falae, the election loser, to accept the result is as unfortunate as it is inevitable. It could be exploited to create the very instability that would thwart the transition to civilian rule. Expectations are high — perhaps too high. Mr Obasanjo must move swiftly and sure-footedly if he is to save his country.

BRING BACK MR CHIPS

're teachers have much to add to their profession

·ke a maths teacher to work uation does not balance: in Wales some 8,000 teachers seeking work in schools: ıssrooms all over Britain are ›pe with serious shortages of something is not adding up ıch-touted education policy. : profession has long been a rnment concern. Excessive ›ng hours and disruptive ntributed to a steady decline t figures. Low pay leads to m. And where unruly chil-sidered a disruption on the ets. Britain's teachers have ıe flak. And so, in an effort to tarnished image of teaching, ıent has pieced together a £130 kage of measures intended to ı candidates to the profession. the cinema's "nobody forgets a ner" campaign which added re, a Green Paper on the future g, published at the end of last ›posed "golden hellos" worth · science teachers and perform-ted pay measures which would aries up from a pittance to ıve rates.

et, even as government money is tempting new teachers, a jobseek-wance is paid out to thousands of applicants hoping for teaching work. For mature entrants into the profession, and for those returning after a break, opportunities are surprisingly scarce. Schools find it cheaper to recruit young graduates. And older applicants may find it almost impossible to gain work at a salary commensurate with their experience.

The Government must consider ways of using earmarked funds to redress this imbalance. Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, has pointed a finger at incompetent teachers suggesting that education remains "too much a lottery" because of patchy standards of teaching. Nervous young newcomers may be a cause of such unevenness. Maturer teachers often have a presence and authority which some younger recruits lack. Not only may they command more respect, but their firm grasp of a subject can lead to an inspiring confidence in imparting their knowledge. Moreover, several of these older teachers have opted for teaching as a second career. Many bring relevant experience from the fields of business and industry into the classroom. The teaching profession has long recognised a need for this. Children need to find their lessons applicable in some way to the world outside. And while Britain's schooling system continues to resist these older recruits, it is wasting one of its most precious resources.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Schools and the Lawrence inquiry

From Professor Bernard Crick

Sir, Your leading article today is wise and forceful to argue against the Macpherson report's recommendation of an annual publication of school-by-school lists of "racist incidents" and ethnic (which is a better word) identifications of pupils excluded.

This would almost certainly be counter-productive and a measure, not of professional competence in difficult and delicate situations, but of the social, ethnic and religious composition of neighbourhoods.

However, the idea that the curriculum should be amended "in order better to reflect the needs of a diverse society" is not so out of line with the recommendations of the advisory group on The Teaching of Citizenship and Democracy in Schools that I had the honour to chair (1997-98), so long as ethnic relations are part of a broader programme of citizenship learning. We said, for instance,

> ... a main aim for the whole community should be to find or restore a sense of common citizenship that is secure enough to find a place for the plurality of nations, cultures and ethnic identifications and religions long found in the United Kingdom.

Many of our precise learning "targets" are relevant to this good purpose.

Yours sincerely,
BERNARD CRICK,
8a Bellevue Terrace,
Edinburgh EH7 4DT.
February 26.

From Commander Michael Saunders Watson

Sir, The Macpherson report recommends that the national curriculum should be amended "better to reflect the needs of a diverse society". When the National Curriculum History Working Group was set up in 1989 we were instructed to put British history at the core of our recommendations and, inter alia, to address the question of what history should be taught to the ethnic minorities.

In the case of the former we took account of the histories of the four countries which make up the UK, and from which as a multicultural society it draws its strength. For instance in the area of human rights, we gave weight both to the Declaration of Arbroath in Scotland and to Magna Carta in England.

In the course of our work we visited a number of schools with pupils from many ethnic backgrounds. One, I recall, included pupils speaking over 50 national languages. Their teachers were adamant that they should be taught the history of the country of their adoption. To do otherwise would, they felt, not only be impractical but divisive.

While our recommended course of history therefore focused on Britain, we did include study units relating to areas of the world from which many of these pupils originated.

Sadly, other pressures have intervened to reduce both the content and amount of history being taught in schools.

I trust, however, that the essential features of British history, based on a tolerant absorption of the many cultures of its people over time, will remain and in due course benefit from the invigorating effect which those from foreign shores bring to our islands. This must be the right way forward.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SAUNDERS WATSON
(Chairman, National Curriculum History Working Group, 1988-90),
Rockingham Castle,
Market Harborough,
Leicestershire LE16 8TH.
March 1.

From Mr Rex Walford and Ms Christine Counsell

Sir, You urge circumspection in any amendment to the national curriculum in the light of the recommendations of the Lawrence report. We agree.

Giving all young people a thorough and enlightened understanding of our nation's multicultural past and of the diversity of the world's peoples is surely the basis of future racial harmony in Britain. Our best history and geography teachers foster wide knowledge of these issues and critical engagement with them.

If the Secretary of State for Education would give as much attention to the teaching of geography and history as he does the so-called "core" subjects (especially by supporting them, rather than marginalising them, in the key years of 14 to 16, at Key Stage 4) much could be achieved in advancing both relevant knowledge and positive attitudes in a multicultural Britain.

Yours sincerely,
REX WALFORD
(Geographer),
CHRISTINE COUNSELL
(Historian),
School of Education,
University of Cambridge,
17 Trumpington Street,
Cambridge CB2 1QA.
gg210@hermes.cam.ac.uk
February 26.

Letters to the Editor that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Debate over royalties on art works

From Mr Robert J. Waterhouse

Sir, The proposed *droit de suite* tax on art sales (report, February 22; leading article, February 25) — now, thankfully, put on hold by the EU (report, February 26) — would require that "art" be defined and a comprehensive system set up to monitor the sale of every "work of art", collect revenues and distribute them as appropriate.

Bearing in mind that most art has little commercial value, the cost of running a Europe-wide scheme would probably be greater than the revenue collected. No doubt the taxpayer will be expected to pay for the army of inspectors, administrators and accountants who would operate the scheme, presumably from some comfortable base in continental Europe.

It would be necessary for these officials to study the wills of all artists, and wills of their beneficiaries, in order to distribute the revenue correctly — a colossal undertaking and yet another intrusion of officialdom into the lives of Europe's citizens.

There can be no logical basis for treating the descendants of artists differently from the descendants of anyone else. It would be no more foolish to extend the scheme to cover the descendants of artists' models, who receive a pittance. And what about people whose property is included, without any payment, in a landscape picture? Shouldn't they get something out of all this too, since it is the image of their property that is being sold?

Only the European Union could waste its time on such nonsense.

Yours etc,
ROBERT J. WATERHOUSE,
5 Heatherbank,
Chislehurst, Kent BR7 5RE.
February 26.

From the Chairman of the British Copyright Council

Sir, Congratulations on including, at last, the artists' side of the case for the *droit de suite* (report, February 22). This royalty is long overdue (it is not a tax — since when did taxes go direct to private individuals?)

It has always been a matter of puzzlement for those concerned about artists' earnings that the British art market apparently believes that passing 2 or 3 per cent of the resale price of a work to artists (or their heirs) will "destroy" the market, whereas the much larger commissions charged by dealers and the auctioneers (the latter to both buyers and sellers) evidently have no such effect.

The spokeswoman for the Matisse estate, quoted in your report, was spot-on in suggesting that the British trade could only be thinking of what they themselves might lose.

Yours faithfully,
GERALD DWORKIN,
Chairman, British Copyright Council,
Copyright House,
29-33 Berners Street, W1P 4AA.
February 25.

From Lord Jacobs

Sir, I wonder why our art dealers and auction houses cannot do what other business people do when faced with price competition — ie, match their competitors' prices and absorb the cost within their own price structure.

Auction houses could readily absorb, within the 10 per cent buyers' premium, a new tax of at least 2 per cent. Given the choice between lower margins or losing all their business, the former would surely be preferable.

Yours sincerely,
ANTHONY JACOBS,
9 Nottingham Terrace, NW1 4QB.
February 25.

From Mr Jonathan Gestetner

Sir, What about works of art which sell at auction for less than the artist's original selling price (which happens far more frequently than the reverse)?

Would it not be as logical for the artist, or his estate, to participate in the next purchaser's loss as in his gain? Why should artists be rewarded on a "heads I win, tails you lose" basis?

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN GESTETNER,
Marlborough Rare Books Ltd,
144-146 New Bond Street, W1Y 9FD.
jg@mrb-books.co.uk
February 25.

Gulf War illness

From Mr Howard Fienberg

Sir, We would do best to look past Colonel T. H. English's call to the British Government for an inquiry on Gulf War illness (letter, February 18). I have seen no evidence that Gulf War veterans are "affected significantly more often by disorders of unknown cause". Evidence demonstrates that some Gulf War veterans are ill. Full stop.

The health studies published in January in *The Lancet* and the *British Medical Journal* simply bolster the conclusions of dozens of studies in Canada and the US — the great number of different symptoms and possible causes offer no evidence of an all-encompassing syndrome. Self-selected cases and self-reported symptoms rather than clinical diagnoses hamper most of the research that has pointed to a syndrome.

This is not to question whether or not any veterans are ill. This is not to say that they are all suffering from psychologically-based illness, though some of them may be (and even they are still sick).

Also, the media appears to be exacerbating veterans' health more than "organophosphate exposure". A study published in last August's *American Journal of Epidemiology* showed how large increases in the reportage of symptoms by veterans corresponded to periods of intense media coverage.

It may be possible that veterans' legitimate illnesses have been somewhat obscured, but it may also be that we are, in some ways, simply scaring our veterans sick.

Yours faithfully,
HOWARD FIENBERG
(Research analyst),
313 12th Street, SE,
Washington DC 20003.
hfienberg@stats.org
February 19.

An Irish champion

From Sir Humphry Wakefield

Sir, In your handsome obituary for the 19th Lord Dunsany (February 19) you write that he "probably lived most of his life in the shadow of his famous father Edward, the dramatist and short-story writer". He also lived "in the shadow of" (or did he bask in the light of?) his elegant mother, Beatrice, daughter of the Earl of Jersey.

His father's shade did not soften the desert for the then Randal Plunkett's astonishing wartime crossing of the Quattara Depression, which you mention. He achieved this feat to the applause of friend and foe alike, leading to safety men of that crack Indian Cavalry regiment, the Guides.

Paternally shadowless, too, were the polo fields where he was a *champion player amongst those high-goal champions of all time* in colourful Kiplingesque prewar India. There, Randal, as dashing ADC to the Viceroy and an army sabre champion, fought a famous duel with a cobra.

In your columns, long ago, Bernard Levin claimed that Randal's father, the 18th Lord, had written the finest first chapter in any "English" novel, in *The Curse of The Wise Woman*. Had Randal been 17th and not 19th Lord, maybe the 18th Lord — a dramatist and short-story writer — would have been inspired to, at very least, a most dashing biography.

Yours faithfully,
HUMPHRY WAKEFIELD,
Chillingham Castle,
Chillingham,
Northumberland NE66 5NJ.
February 24.

Scottish parliament

From Mr Bob Cuddihy

Sir, You report (Scottish editions, February 24) that the BBC has decided against a dedicated digital/cable television feed providing full, live coverage of the Scottish parliament, in favour of selective coverage. Whom is the BBC serving in Scotland? Are services provided with a so-called metropolitan view in mind or for the Scottish licence-payers? If it is for the former then the latter can only feel cheated.

Who can say whether or not viewers would be "bored to tears", but, in any case, who says democracy was designed to provide "good" television? Will the proceedings of the Scottish parliament be any less boring than what passes for debate at Westminster? And how much relevance will Westminster's deliberations have on the everyday lives of the Scottish people?

Why not reverse the BBC's plans and show the complete proceedings of the Scottish parliament to viewers in Scotland, with proceedings at Westminster restricted to highlights?

Yours faithfully,
BOB CUDDIHY,
143 Constitution Street,
Edinburgh EH6 7AD.

Genes and Genesis

From the Reverend David Gynes

Sir, Just think what Monsanto and new Labour could achieve if they had the support of God (letter, February 25).

Yours faithfully,
DAVID J. GYNES,
33 Neptune Road,
Fareham, Hampshire PO15 6SW.
February 25.

From Mr Peter R. Davies

Sir, When genetically modified people reach the gates of heaven I hope and believe that Peter will let us through, on the ground that it wasn't our fault.

Yours sincerely,
PETER R. DAVIES,
Ashurst Piece, Cross Road,
Tadworth, Surrey KT20 5ST.

From Dr Michael Handford

Sir, My thought is: God had the expertise and chose not to use it.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HANDFORD,
Millstream, The High Street,
Ramsbury, Wiltshire SN8 2PA.
February 25.

A bishop's place 'is in the Lords'

From Mr John Wainwright

Sir, The general secretary of the National Secular Society, Mr K. Porteous Wood (letter, February 22), thinks there should be no bishops in a reformed House of Lords. I feel that the Government has acted in the public interest by supporting the retention of bishops for the transitional period and I am encouraged that it is looking for ways to increase representation from other Churches and religious traditions.

Parliament has to consider many ethical issues, such as the family, human sexuality, bio-ethics, the environment, education and overseas aid, which go well beyond the boundaries of political parties and on which religious leaders can often make important contributions. These are likely to increase rather than diminish.

Mr Porteous Wood thinks the presence of religious leaders in the Lords is undemocratic, but by the same criterion why should the secular values he espouses have what I consider to be a disproportionate influence on public opinion — and who has elected those members of the media who often seem to trivialise religious issues and unfairly stereotype religious people? At least having some official religious representatives in the Lords will, albeit in a very small way, help to give a fairer balance. As a professed democrat, Mr Porteous Woods should be in favour of this.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN WAINWRIGHT
(Methodist lay preacher),
48 Borough Way, Potters Bar,
Hertfordshire EN6 3HB.
john@wainwright86.freeserve.co.uk
February 23.

From Mr N. J. Inkley

Sir, Mr Porteous Wood makes an unjustified assumption which I believe invalidates his argument. He says that "retaining the English bishops [in the Lords] disadvantages the third of the population who do not believe". It might advantage Anglicans, but it need not *dis*advantage anyone. The presence of good men and true can benefit all.

Yours,
NEIL INKLEY,
6 Knot Lane, Walton-le-Dale,
Preston, Lancashire PR5 4BQ.
February 22.

Houdini's film releases

From Professor Emeritus Edwin A. Dawes

Sir, *The Man from Beyond*, which you report (February 25) as being Harry Houdini's "one attempt to break into films", was not the only Houdini feature film (and has, in fact, been available on video in the US for several years). He started with the serial, *The Master Mystery* (notable for bringing the first robot to the screen), and ended (in 1923) with *Haldane of the Secret Service*.

His last two films were produced by his own Houdini's Motion Picture Corporation, a venture in which he lost some $500,000, for reasons which will be readily apparent when the restored *The Man from Beyond* is screened at this month's Bradford Film Festival.

Sadly, Houdini's talents as a great showman and escapologist did not translate to the screen and, despite a fascinating Niagara Falls episode in *The Man from Beyond*, biographer Kenneth Silverman's observation that Houndini's acting in the film provided little more animation when his character was alive then when frozen in the ice tells all.

Yours faithfully,
EDWIN A. DAWES
(Historian, The Magic Circle),
Dane Hill, 393 Beverley Road,
Anlaby, East Yorkshire HU10 7BQ.
March 1.

Names and numbers

From Mr E. W. Lighton

Sir, Mr Harry Tate (letter, February 27; see also letters, February 22 and 25) tells us of the policy of the Australian State of Victoria, which allows drivers a wide personal choice of numberplate. He might have been puzzled and eventually amused, as I was, by the formation "OOO AAH" seen in Canberra last September.

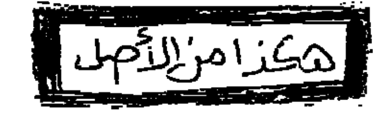
A small notice in a side window contained the legend: "It may be your daughter on the back seat."

Yours etc,
E. W. LIGHTON,
11 Ryebank Avenue,
Crewe CW1 3SW.
a1311755@infotrade.co.uk
February 27.

From Mr Alan Dale

Sir, Suppose that the system of vehicle registration had always been such that the owner's name or initial were compulsorily incorporated into the numberplate. Imagine the status to be gained by, and the cost of, beating the system and acquiring an entirely anonymous plate consisting of meaningless letters and numbers.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN DALE,
Tangley Farm, Tangley,
Andover, Hampshire SP11 0RZ.
February 27.





COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 1: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh gave a Reception this evening at Buckingham Palace for the winners of The Queen's Award for Export, Technological and Environmental Achievement in 1998. The Duke of Gloucester and The Duke of Kent were present.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 1: The Prince of Wales today launched the Welsh Beef Promotion Campaign at the Celtic Manor Hotel Golf and Country Club, Newport, Gwent.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 1: The Duke of York this morning departed London Heathrow for Vietnam.

Captain Neil Blair, Royal Navy, and Mr David Tuck are in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 1: The Prince Edward today unveiled the Noël Coward statue at the Gershwin theatre, New York, United States of America.

March 1: The Princess Royal this afternoon visited Bath University Sports Training Village, Bath, Somerset, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Somerset (Lady Gass).

ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 1: The Duke of Kent, Colonel, this morning visited the Scots Guards Band, Wellington Barracks, London SW1.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
March 1: Princess Alexandra, President of the Friends of the V&A, this evening attended a Reception in the Italian Galleries of the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, London.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit the British Equestrian Trade Association International Fair at the NEC, Birmingham, at 11.15; and, as first honorary liveryman, will attend the Engineers' Company election court meeting and dinner at the City of London Club, Old Broad Street, EC2 at 7.15.

The Princess Royal, as president Rural Housing Trust, will attend a conference at the Heritage Motor Museum, Banbury Road, Gaydon, Warwickshire, at 9.30; will officially open Arburg's new United Kingdom Headquarters at Tachbrook Park Drive, Warwick at 2.00; and as president, British Horse Society will open the BHS Rescue Centre, Stonecroft Equestrian Centre, Stonecroft Farm, Kineton Road, Oxhill, at 3.20.

Princess Alexandra will attend a dinner to mark the 30th anniversary of her patronage of the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, St James's Palace at 7.15.

Lecture

CSV
Lord Levy, Honorary President of CSV, presided at the 10th Annual Edith Kahn Memorial Lecture delivered by Denise Platt, CBE, Chief Inspector, Social Services Inspectorate, at William Kent House, Arlington Street, SW1, yesterday.

Chartered Certified Accountants

The following two names were omitted from the list of successful finalists in the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants December 1998 examination published last Friday: Wood T D; Woodhead P.

Mr Ferrier Charlton

A memorial service for Mr Ferrier Charlton will be held at St Clement Danes Church on Friday, March 26, at 11.00am.

Premium Bonds

The £1 million prize in the Premium Bond draw for March was won with bond number 76CK 562472. The winner lives in Lancashire and has a holding of £8,991.

School news

The Godolphin School, Salisbury
The Governors of The Godolphin School are pleased to announce the following Scholarships and Awards for September 1999:

Foundation Scholarship
Nicole Saba, Falkner House.

11+ Academic Scholarships
Rachael Booker, Norman Court; Laura Guy (major scholarship), Leaden Hall; Lucia Hayes, Godolphin Prep; Hannah Jackson, Leaden Hall; Lydia Kriticos, International School, Saudi Arabia; Iona McCall-Judson, Godolphin Prep; Alexandra Melhuish, Leaden Hall; Claire Morgan, Prince's Mead; Sarah Penn, Leaden Hall.

11+ Combined Music & Academic Scholarships
Sarah Dixon, Thorngrove; Emma Tenison (major scholarship), The Granville School.

Music Award
Alexandra Childs, Thorngrove.

13+ Academic Scholarships
Samantha Best (major scholarship), Norman Court; Georgina Clarke, Westbourne House; Laura Fountain, Chafyn Grove; Lydia Waterman, Windlesham House.

Sixth Form External Scholarship
Sophie Coles, Burgate School.

Reception

Glaziers' Company
Mr George Cracknell, Master of the Glaziers' Company, received liverymen and their guests at a reception and supper held last night at Glaziers' Hall, after Dr Sebastian Strobl, Director of Stained Glass Conservation at Canterbury Cathedral, had delivered the annual lecture.

Memorial service

Sir William Mars-Jones
The Lord Chief Justice and the Attorney-General attended a service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir William Mars-Jones, a former High Court judge, held yesterday in Gray's Inn Chapel. The Rev Roger Holloway, Preacher, officiated and Canon Eric James led the prayers.

Mr Matthew Mars-Jones, son, read the lesson and Mr Adam Mars-Jones, son, read from *Bless Our Ship* by Captain Eric Bush. His Honour Esyr Lewis, QC, gave an address. Among others present were:

Mr and Mrs Timothy Mars-Jones (son and daughter-in-law), Mrs Matthew Mars-Jones (daughter-in-law), Mrs Dilys Mars-Jones (sister-in-law), Mr Ben Johnson and other members of the family; Lord Hooson QC and Lady Hooson, Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Williams of Mostyn, QC, and Lady Williams, Lord Neill of Bladen, QC, the Treasurer of Lincoln's Inn and Lady Balcombe, Sir Tasker Watkins, VC, Sir David Croom-Johnson, Lady Glidewell, Sir Murray Stuart-Smith, Sir Anthony and Lady Evans, Sir John Roch, Sir John Mummery, Sir Malcolm Pill, Sir Mark and Lady Waller, Sir Alan and Lady Ward, Lady Wilson, Lady Finlay.

Mr Justice Douglas and Lady Brown, Mr Justice and Lady Vinelott, Mr Justice and Lady Jacob, Mrs Justice Ebsworth, Mr Justice Richards, Mr Justice and Lady Thomas, Mr Justice Kay, Sir Edward Pickering, Sir Ronald and Lady Waterhouse, Sir Frank and Lady White, His Honour Colin and Mrs Sleeman, Judge Boal, QC, His Honour Richard Lowry, QC, and Her Honour Nina Lowry, His Honour William Norman Francis, Judge Ann Goddard, QC.

Mr Martin Collins, QC (Treasurer of Gray's Inn) and Mrs Collins with Mr David Machin (Under-Treasurer) and Mrs Machin, Mrs Esyr Lewis, Mr Philip Cox, QC, and Mrs Cox, Mr Richard Stone, QC, and Mrs Stone, Mr Conrad Dehn, QC, and Mrs Dehn, Professor Anthony Jolowicz, QC, Dr John Roberts, QC, Miss Jean Southworth, QC, Mr Julian Jeffs, QC, and Mrs Jeffs, Mr Brian Higgs, QC, and Mrs Higgs.

Mr Alan Tyrell, QC, Mr Anthony Butcher, QC, Mr Michael Hill, QC, and Mrs Hill, Mr and Mrs Karl Newman, Mr David Jeffreys, QC, Mr Alex Carlile, QC, Miss Marion Simmons, QC, Mr John Leighton Williams, QC, and Mrs Williams, Mr John Griffith Williams, QC, and Mrs Williams, Mr Michael Kallipetis, QC, Mr Peter Birts, QC, Mr and Mrs Alun Davies.

Mr Leighton Davies, QC, Mr Gerard Elias, QC, Mr Patrick Harrington, QC, Mr Jeremy Storey, QC, Professor Emrys and Mrs Jones, Mr Christopher Pitchford, QC (leader, Wales and Chester Circuit), members of the HMS Euryalus Association and many other friends and former colleagues.

Dinners

St David's Day London Welsh Celebration
Mr William Hague, MP, was the guest of honour at the St David's Day London Welsh Celebration dinner held last night at the Savoy Hotel. Brigadier Rolph James presided. The Right Rev J. Ivor Rees proposed the toast to the *immortal memory* of St David. Lord Chalfont and Sir Tasker Watkins, VC, also spoke.

Among others present were:

Mrs Hague, Viscount and Viscountess Dilhorne, Lord and Lady Geraint, Lord and Lady Griffiths of Fforestfach, Lord Mackay of Ardbrecknish, Lord Baker of Dorking, CH, and Lady Baker, Lord Justice Pill, Lady Watkins, the Hon Gaenor Howells, the Hon Mrs Mari Holloway, Sir John Cadogan, FRS, and Lady Cadogan, Sir Maldwyn and Lady Thomas, Sir Philip and Lady Jones, Sir David and Lady Nicholas, Sir Alan and Lady Thomas, Mr Justice and Lady Thomas and Judge and Mrs David Griffiths.

Athenaeum
Professor Sir Bernard Crossland, FRS, was the speaker at a talk dinner held last night at the Athenaeum. Mr J.D. Rimington was in the chair.



PAUL ROGERS

Rory Bremner at Wilton's Music Hall, East London, yesterday, where he is to appear in his own translation of Kurt Weill's satirical opera The Silver Lake (Der Silbersee) from April 1. Mr Bremner and Broomhill Opera, which is putting on the opera, have a month to transform Wilton's, London's oldest surviving music-hall, from being semi-derelict into London's newest opera house. Wilton's was saved from demolition in 1964 by Lord Olivier, Sir John Betjeman and others

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Robert II, King of Scotland 1371-90, Paisley, 1316; Sir Thomas Bodley, founder of the Bodleian Library in Oxford, Exeter, 1545; Samuel Houston, soldier, 1st President of the Republic of Texas 1836-38 and 1841-44, Rockbridge Court, Virginia, 1793; Bedrich Smetana, composer, Litomyel, Czechoslovakia, 1824; Kurt Weill, composer, Dessau, Germany, 1900; Karen Carpenter, singer, New Haven, Connecticut, 1950.

DEATHS: Girolamo Frescobaldi, organist and composer, Rome, 1644; John Wesley, founder of the Methodist Church, London, 1791; Horace Walpole, novelist and historian, Twickenham, 1797; Howard Carter, archaeologist, discoverer of the tomb of Tutankhamun (1922), London, 1939; Azorin (José Martínez Ruiz), novelist, Madrid, 1967.

An assassination attempt was made on Queen Victoria by Robert Maclean at Windsor, 1882.

Captain James Gallagher and his 13-man US Air Force crew completed the first round-the-world nonstop flight in 94 hours, 1949.

The British Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic expedition, led by Sir Vivian Fuchs, completed the crossing, 1958.

Rhodesia broke away from the Commonwealth and became a republic under Ian Smith, 1970.

Fan Makers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Fan Makers' Company for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr M.H. Davis; *Free Warden*, Mr R.M. Freeman; *Foreign Warden*, Mr R.I. Simpson.

Appointments

Mr Charles Peter Lawford Openshaw, QC, to be Senior Circuit Judge at Preston Combined Court Centre in succession to Judge Lockett, who has retired.

Miss Christine Fellner, barrister, to be a full-time Social Security and Child Support Commissioner.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.D. Fletcher and Miss V.C. Coley
The engagement is announced between Justin, twin son of Mr and Mrs Nick Fletcher, of Weston Lullingfields, Shropshire, and Victoria, daughter of Mr and Mrs Mark Coley, of Brinkley, Suffolk.

Mr A. Isherwood and Miss K.M. Knopp
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Isherwood, of Edgworth, Lancashire, and Kristina Maria, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Frederick Knopp, of Bournemouth, Dorset.

Mr C.J.A. Jones and Miss J. Storer
The engagement is announced between Christopher John Andrew, only son of Mr and Mrs John Jones, of Broadclyst, Exeter, and Jacqueline, elder daughter of Mr Frank Storer, AE, and Mrs Storer, of Peacehaven, East Sussex.

Mr C.I. Ley and Miss H.M. Nicholls
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Sir Ian Ley, Bt, and Lady Ley, of Fauld Hall, Staffordshire, and Henrietta, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs David Nicholls, of Manningtree, Essex.

Mr F.H.C. Price and Miss R.J. Wigley
The engagement is announced between Frederick, younger son of Mr Christopher (Kit) Price and the late Mrs Price, of Morton Bagot, Warwickshire, and Rebecca, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Islwyn Wigley, of Radyr, Cardiff.

Mr C.C. Nicholson and Miss E.L. Laidler
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr and Mrs Iain Nicholson, of Stamfordham, Northumberland, and Emma, daughter of the Reverend and Mrs David Laidler, of Exeter, Devon.

Mr B.E. Savill and Miss A. Shepherd
The engagement is announced between Ben, son of Mr and Mrs Henry Savill, of Stanford Rivers, Essex, and Abbe, daughter of Mr and Mrs Max Shepherd, of Kew, Surrey.

Mr S.S. West and Miss L.G. Bucknall
The engagement is announced between Sean, eldest son of Mr and Mrs T.G. West, of Sunbury-on-Thames, and Letitia, daughter of Mr and Mrs P.G.A. Bucknall, of Hampton, Middlesex.

Birthdays today

Miss Pat Arrowsmith, pacifist, 69; Miss Margaret Barbieri, ballerina, 52; Mr Harry Blech, violinist and conductor, 89; Lady Moyra Browne, former superintendent-in-chief, St John Ambulance Brigade, 81; Sir Leonard Crossland, former chairman, Ford Motor Company, 85; Lord Elton, 69; Professor Michael J.G. Farthing, former Dean, St Bartholomew's and the Royal London School of Medicine and Dentistry, 51; Mr John Gardner, composer, 82; Lady Gass, Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset, 59; Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, former President of the Soviet Union, 68; Captain Sir Donald Gosling, RNR, joint chairman, CPI, 70; Mr R.E. Groves, former chairman, Mayer International, 79; Lord Howie of Troon, 75; Cardinal Basil Hume, Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, 76; Dame Naomi James, author and yachtswoman, 50; Mr Robert Lloyd, opera singer, 59; Mr Peter Longman, director, Theatres Trust, 53; Sir John Manduell, composer, 71; Mr Hugh Monro, Headmaster, Clifton College, 49; Mr Lou Reed, rock singer, 56; Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Richardson, 70; Mr John Tusa, former managing director, BBC World Service, 63; Mr J.P.R. Williams, former rugby player and orthopaedic surgeon, 50; Mr Ian Woosnam, golfer, 41.

New Ambassador

Dr Peter January to be Ambassador to Albania from April, in sucession to Mr Stephen Nash who will be moving to a new Diplomatic Service appointment.

The Institute of Indirect Taxation

1998 Associateship Examination Successes
The Institute of Indirect Taxation announce that the following candidates were successful in the Associate Examinations which took place on December 8 and 9, 1998:

Awards
The Presidents Prize (sponsored by CCH) for the best overall performance: Vannessa Rush
The IIT Prize for the best performance in Paper I: Elaine Cox
The Butterworths de Voil Prize for the best performance in Paper II: David Dexyer
The CCH Prize for the best performance in Paper III: Vannessa Rush

Pass List
Cox, Elaine; Critchley, Bernard; Cross, Fiona; Dexyer, David; Kavanagh, Nick; Mannering, Nicola; McGregor, Alda; Offer, Kevin; Reynolds, Sarah; Rush, Vannessa; Skidmore, Neil.

Cornwall Lieutenancy

The following have been appointed Deputy Lieutenants of Cornwall: Professor Alan Livingston, Mrs Margaret Horrell, Mrs Gloria Alsey, Mrs Jill Morison, Rear-Admiral Sir Robert Woodard, Sir John Banham, Mr Peter Fitzgerald.

Luncheon

Farmers' Company
Mr Christopher Pertwee, Master of the Farmers' Company, presided at a court and livery luncheon held yesterday at Farmers' Fletchers' Hall. The Master of the Poulters' Company and the Director-General of the Institute of Directors were among the guests.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE; 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a large crowd of people in heaven, saying, "Praise God! Salvation, glory, and power belong to our God!" Revelation 19.1 (GNB).

BIRTHS

ANDERSEN - On February 18th at The Portland Hospital, to Jeanette and Jan-Erik, a son, Felix Erik, a brother for Maud, Niklas and Patrik.

BEARD - On 1st March 1999 in Amman, Jordan to Sally (née Cameron) and Nick, a daughter, Katherine Elizabeth Wales, a sister for Edward.

BUCKLEY - On Thursday 18th February to Christopher and Elizabeth (née Pick), a beautiful daughter, Jessica Sophie.

BUCKNILL - On February 25th at The Portland Hospital, to Gemma (née Pozo) and Andy, a daughter, Georgina Sophie, a sister for Emily.

BURRIDGE - On February 27th in Singapore, to Susan (née Barradell) and Richard, a daughter, Lucy Charlotte.

CAMPBELL - On February 27th 1999, to Graeme and Trisha (née Lord), a beautiful first child, Millie.

CERVENY - Katherine Grace at The Portland Hospital, to Gretchen, Frank and Chas. Wednesday 24th February 8lbs 11oz 5.57pm.

DAVIES - On February 18th 1999, to Caroline (née Berry) and Mark, a son, William Pike, a brother for Tom, Ben and Allie.

de VILLIERS - On 27th February 1999, to Elspeth (née Young) and Matthew, a son, Henry John Matthew.

DYE - On February 23rd at The Portland Hospital, to Tana and William, a son, Andrew Palmer.

FINDLAY - On February 18th 1999 to Sara (née Edwards) and Scott, a son and daughter, Jack Fergus and Isabella Kate, a brother and sister for Sam.

HAKKIM - On 19th February, at The Portland Hospital, to Michaelle (née Gooding) and Hassan, a son Adonis. A joy to our world.

HILL - On February 28th in Brisbane, Australia, to Amanda (née Lock) and Harry, a daughter.

JENSEN - On February 26th at The Portland Hospital, to Pat (née Bennick) and Paul, a son, Benjamin Joseph, a brother to Isabel.

KITCHING - On February 17th 1999, to Claire (née Griffiths) and Andrew, a son, Harvey James.

LEONARD - On February 8th to Elizabeth (née Miles) and Paul, a daughter, Marina Lucy Mary, a sister for Francis and Guy.

BIRTHS

OLLIVER - On Wednesday February 10th 1999 to Karina (née Hudson) and Richard, a son, James Robert Guy.

RENTON/BURNETT - On February 23rd at The Portland Hospital, to Alex and Ruth, a son, Adam Augustus Burnett Renton.

SHAW - On February 27th 1999, to Cathy (née Tiller) and Matthew, twin sons, Gregory William and Robert Cavendish.

SHEFFIELD - On February 25th at The Portland Hospital Jim and Lisa welcomed Noah, a brother for sisters Natalie and Annick.

SHIER - On February 25th at The Portland Hospital, to Susan (née Pugsley) and Jonathan, a son, Charles Cameron Crossland.

SIMPSON - On February 25th at The Portland Hospital, to Juliet (née Edwards) and Jamie, a son, Luke Charles, a brother for Daniel.

STULTIENS - On February 25th, to Catherine (née Knowelden) and Jeff, a daughter, Ellen Alice.

TYDEMAN - On Tuesday 23rd February at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Victoria (née Hodgson) and Mark, a son.

WILSON - On February 21st in Northampton, to Stephanie (née Jones) and David, a beautiful daughter, Felicity Amber Elizabeth.

WRIGLEY - On February 24th at The Portland Hospital, to Diana (née Bennett) and Jed, a daughter, Jessica, a sister for Edmund.

DEATHS

BAILEY - Suddenly on 26th February Reginald Bertram, CBE, aged 82 years. Husband of the late Phyllis, much loved by his daughter and son, Angela and Geoffrey, and his five grandchildren. Funeral Service and committal at St Mary's Church, East Preston, 9th March 11 am. Family flowers, donations to British Heart Foundation, c/o H.D. Tribe, 66 Sea Lane, Rustington, West Sussex, tel: (01903) 787188.

BARBER - Suddenly whilst on holiday in Italy on 18th February 1999, Michael Peter aged 43 of Chobham, Surrey. Dearly beloved husband of Annette, adored father of Daniel, Natalie and Melissa. Funeral Service at Chobham St Lawrence Church on Wednesday 3rd March 1999 at 12.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired the Save the Children Fund. Enquiries Woking Funeral Services, (01483) 772266.

DEATHS

BEHRENS - Victor, on 28th February after a short illness, much missed by his family, friends and godchildren. Funeral at 12 noon, on Wednesday 3rd March at Golders Green Crematorium, Hoop Lane.

BROAD - (Audrey) Joan, formerly of Dudley and Taunton, peacefully at Dorchester Nursing Home on 26th February 1999 aged 86 years. Widow of Eric, devoted mother to Susan, mother-in-law to Kevin Rogers and loving Grandma to Eleanor and David. Service of Thanksgiving at Taunton Deane Crematorium on Friday 5th March at 10.30am. No mourning clothes please. Family flowers only. Donations gratefully accepted for the Alzheimers Disease Society c/o Grassby Funeral Service, 16 Princes Street, Dorchester, Dorset.

CARMICHAEL - Peter Oliphant, on Thursday February 25th 1999, peacefully at home, at last united with his beloved Pamela. Father of Ralph, Alastair, Malcolm and Madeleine, and loving grandfather. Private funeral. Thanksgiving Service on Friday March 5th at 3.30 pm in St Anne's Episcopal Church, Coupar, Angus. Flowers to the church or donations to the 51st Highland Brigade Welfare Fund, Highland House, 3 St Leonards Bank, Perth. PH2 8EB.

ERTEHAJ - Abol Hassan on February 24th peacefully at home aged 89. Beloved husband of Azar and father of Elahe, Shahrzad, Davar and Alireza. Funeral on Friday 5th March at 11.30 am Hampstead Cemetery followed by a memorial reception from 5 pm–8 pm at 5 Cumberland House, Kensington Road, London W8.

ECCLES - The Viscount David McAdam, aged 94, on 24th February at Four Oaks Farm, New Jersey, USA the home of his loving wife, The Viscountess Mary Hyde Eccles. A service of remembrance will be held at St Luke's Church, Gladstone, New Jersey on 6th March. Arrangements for services to be held in England will be announced later.

EDMONDSTON - James Douglas OBE, unexpectedly and peacefully at home on 27th February 1999 aged 77. Adored and much respected husband, father and grandfather. Ingebjörg, Caroline, Joanna, Harriet, Mark and Javed. A man of principles, intellect and wit. Funeral for family and close friends. Donations in lieu of flowers to Hereford Branch of the Cats' Protection League, via Dawe Brothers, Hereford.

ESSERY - On 26th February 1999, The Reverend Canon Eric died at the Royal Berkshire Hospital. Funeral Eucharist at Christ Church, Reading on Tuesday 9th March at 11.00am. Flowers welcome, or donations to 'The Eric Essery Memorial Fund' may be sent to A.B. Walker & Son Ltd, 36 Eldon Road, Reading RG1 4DL.

FERGUSSON - Anne Mary aged 80 peacefully at home after a long illness. Much loved sister of Susan and aunt of Andrew and David. Funeral at Putney Vale at 2.30 pm 4th March. Family flowers only. Enquiries to Andrew Marx, 23A Nevern Square, SW5 9PD, (0171) 373-0589. Donations to Cancer Research.

FINN - John David, died peacefully on 25th February, 1999 at Salisbury Hospice, aged 62 years. Dearly loved husband of Carole and the late Daphne. Much loved father of Susan, Judith, Catherine and Peter and Sophie and Roger. A very dear grandad. Funeral Service on Friday, 5th March 1999 at 12 noon at Fordingbridge United Reformed Church, Fordingbridge. No flowers please but donations if desired for Ataxia or Salisbury Hospice Care Trust c/o I.N. Newman Ltd., Griffin Mews, 22 High Street, Fordingbridge SP6 1AX.

FORRESTER - R.A.C. 'Reggie'. Husband of the late Joan, father of Charlotte and grandfather of Catharine and James. Passed away peacefully at home on Friday February 26th 1999, aged 91. Private cremation. A Memorial Service will be held at a later date.

GAWLIK - James, mathematician, late of Ministry of Defence suddenly on 5th February 1999 at his home in Dingwall, Ross-shire, Scotland aged 83 years.

GILBERT - Joan Enid peacefully in Horsford Nursing Home on 25th February, aged 90, formerly of Aylsham and Enfield. Widow of Frank. Proud aunt, great aunt, and great great aunt and good friend of many. Funeral service to be held on Friday 5th March, 3.30pm at St Michael's Church, Aylsham. Family flowers only, donations if desired for St Michael's Church, Aylsham c/o Duckers Funeral Service, 23 White Hart Street, Aylsham, Norfolk, NR11 6HG.

GREEN - Samuel (Tim) aged 78. On 24th February after a short illness. Deeply loved and loving husband and beloved companion of Buddy. Much loved brother, uncle and friend. Funeral Service at St Nicholas' Church, Manor Park Road, Chislehurst at 11.30 am Monday 8th March followed by a private cremation. No flowers by request but donations may be made to St Christopher's Hospice through Francis Chappell & Sons, 231 High Street, Bromley, BR1 1NZ.

HAMILTON - R.G. Wallace peacefully at home on 21st February 1999 after a long illness, formerly of Giffnock, London and Bearsden. Leading Child Psychotherapist and founder member of Young Minds, the Children's Mental Health Charity. Dear brother of the late Margie Kinghorn of Tunbridge Wells and of Jean Cameron, a much loved uncle of David, Fiona, Jane, Jennifer and the late Andrew. The private funeral has taken place.

HANISCH - On 23rd February peacefully at Exmouth House, Florence aged 87. Funeral Service will be at Exeter and Devon Crematorium on Friday 5th March at 2.30pm. Floral tributes or donations in lieu if desired to Guide Dogs for the Blind c/o Crews & Son, Tower Street, Exmouth, Devon.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

HARRIES - Basil, Charles OBE. Died peacefully and with great dignity after a short illness and a valiant fight at Colchester Hospital on 25th February. Husband of Nancy, he left two children, Christiane and David, from an earlier marriage to Rose Marie. He is deeply loved and will be greatly missed by family and friends alike. He devoted his life in service to the Crown variously serving in the Royal Navy during the War and subsequently as a Senior Diplomat for HMG. Requiem Mass at The Church of Our Lady & St John, Sudbury, Suffolk at 1 pm Thursday 4th March followed by interment at All Saints Church, Newton Green. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired to CAFOD. All care of Funeral Directors Brown Fenn & Parker, Sudbury, Suffolk 01787 370909.

HEMMING - Noreen Margaret on 27th February 1999 peacefully at home aged 82 years after a courageous fight against cancer. Beloved wife of the late William (Bill) Hemming, adored mother of Sue and grandmother of Robert and Rosy. Sadly missed by her family and many friends. Funeral Service at St Mark's Chapel, Eastern Road, Brighton on Saturday 6th March at 11 am, followed by a private cremation. Family flowers only please or donations if desired to The Martlets Hospice may be sent c/o Regency Funeral Service, 29 College Place, Brighton.

HOLDER - Eileen Flora Holder (née Lloyd), dearly beloved mother of Godfrey, Ian and Keith, and of Pat, Jocelyn and Barbara, grandmother to Katharine, Jennifer, Serena, Wendy, Helen, Heather and Sandra and great grandmother to Alice, dear sister of Hugh, left for her heavenly abode very peacefully on Sunday February 28th. Much loved by all her family and friends she is now at peace with her beloved Roger and will be in our hearts forever. Funeral service from St Annes Scottish Episcopal Church, Strathpeffer on Friday March 5th, at 1p.m. thereafter interment at Fodderty Burial Ground.

HOWELL - John died on February 25th 1999 after a long illness borne with fortitude and humour. Dearly loved husband of D'Arcy, their two children Arabella and Georgina and grandchildren Hector and Tabitha. The funeral service takes place at St John's Church, Copthorne, on Tuesday 9th March at 2 pm, followed by a committal at the Surrey and Sussex Crematorium at 3 pm. Family flowers only but donations if desired to Cancer Research c/o Alex Jones Funeral Directors, Lingfield, (01342) 832534.

KEMSLEY - Lionel, 2nd Viscount, died peacefully after a short illness on 28th February 1999 at Leicester in his 90th year. Beloved husband of Helen, much loved father of Mary Anne, Jane, Caroline and Katie. Devoted grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral 2.30 pm Friday 5th March at All Saints Church, Lubenham, Leics. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Council of St John for Leicestershire. Enquiries and donations to Adkinsons, Funeral Directors, 12 London Road, Oadby, LE2 5DG. Tel: 0116 271 2340.

LAWRENCE - Martin S.T.A. Lawrence MA, BM, Bch (Oxford 1971), FRCP, FRCGP. Born 12.12.1943, died peacefully at home on 27th February 1999. G.P. in Chipping Norton, University Lecturer in General Practice and Fellow of Green College Oxford. Deeply loving and beloved of Annette, Anna Jo, Michael, Christian and Jude. He will be sadly missed by his relatives, friends, colleagues, patients and students, in this country and abroad. Funeral service at St Kenelm's Church Enstone, Thursday 4th March at 2pm, followed by private cremation. Donations please in his memory for I.C.R.F. at Churchill Hospital Oxford, Marie Curie Nurses, Katharine House Hospice Trust or The War Memorial Hospital Chipping Norton c/o Sole & Son, Bidston Close, Over Norton OX7 5PP.

LUCK - Ellen Georgina (née Redding). Peacefully in her sleep on March 1st, beloved wife of the late Gilbert Luck, dearly loved and loving mother of Guy, devoted grandmother to James and Nicholas. Funeral to be held at the Isle of Wight Crematorium on Friday, March 5th at 3pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to I.W. Macmillan Nurse Appeal, c/o R & P Everson, The Broadway, Totland, I.W.

LYONS - Terence, Lt. Col. RA (ret'd) died on 28th February 1999. He fought with humour and courage. Funeral on 3rd March, 11.30am, St Osmunds Roman Catholic Church, Exeter Street, Salisbury. No flowers please. Donations to Salisbury Hospice Care Trust, Salisbury Hospice, Salisbury District Hospital.

MAURICE - Phyllis, HMI Education 1950 - 1970, died 20th February 1999. Her Chief Inspector of the time said of her work "I do not know of any infant school in the country which did not look forward to her visit and feel better for her presence in their school". The thanksgiving service will take place at Barrow Parish Church, Barrow, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk at 2pm on 9th March followed by the Committal the the Crematorium, Risby.

MAXWELL - Dr. John (formerly of Liverpool) suddenly in hospital 25th February. Dear husband of Sybil and devoted father of Anthony, Rikki and Andrew. Cremation took place 1st March. Donations if desired to Royal National Lifeboat Institute.

MITCHELL-HEGGS - Maurice M.A. (Oxon) aged 91, (Barrister at Law) on February 26th. Beloved husband of late Elizabeth and Wendy. Proud father of Anthony, Christopher and Caroline, grandfather and great grandfather, dearly loved and sadly missed. Service at St Marys Church, Twickenham on Wednesday March 10th at 11.45am. Enquiries to F.W. Paine Twickenham, Tel 0181 892 1784.

MODIANO - Ignacio died suddenly in Chile on 27th February whilst swimming, beloved husband of Natalia Fetherston-Dilke and father of three dear little boys, Oscar, Lucas and Bruno.

MONEY-KYRLE - Audley Francis on February 26th in Wiltshire aged 73. Survived by his brothers Ernle, Roger and John and by his sons Julian and Nicholas. Funeral on Friday March 5th at St Andrew's Church, Heddington, near Calne, Wiltshire at 2 pm. Enquiries: Wootten and Son F/D, 01249 812258.

ORPEN - Dorothy peacefully on February 25th 1999 aged 93 years. Widow of Arthur "Willie", beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Service at St Luke's Church, Milland, March 8th at 3 pm.

RADZIWILL - Prince Anthony Nicholas, died on Wednesday 24th February 1999. Family funeral service on Thursday 4th March, 11am at Our Lady, Help of Christians, Madeira Road, West Byfleet, Surrey. No flowers. Donations if desired to CAFOD, Romero Close, Stockwell Road, London, SW9 9TY. Memorial Mass at Little Brompton, London, Friday 9th April. Details to be announced.

RILSTONE - On 20th February, Audrey Helen (née Bettley) of Stock, Essex, darling wife of Dr Frank Rilstone and beloved mother of Berenice and Adrian. Cremation 11.45 am Chelmsford Crematorium, family only. Memorial service 3.30 pm, Methodist Church, Western Road, Billericay, Monday March 8th. No flowers. Donations to Macmillan Nurses c/o Farrers, High Street, Billericay.

SMITH - On 25th February 1999, Madeleine Lovedy, aged 89, peacefully at Halliwell Nursing Home, Tunbridge Wells. Greatly missed by all her relatives and friends. Service to take place at Holy Trinity Church, Hurst Green on Wednesday 10th March at 10.45 am, followed by cremation. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Save the Children Fund c/o C Waterhouse & Sons, High Street, Burwash, E Sx. Tel: (01435) 882219.

SOUTH - (née Benwell), Winifred Mabel "Mabs" formerly of Farnborough died peacefully in her sleep on 22rd February 1999 in her 90th year. Widow of Harold L/RADC, mother of Jenny, Richard and Martin. Funeral at Easthampstead Park Crematorium at 2.00pm on Monday 8th March. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Alzheimers Disease Society, c/o and enquiries to Funeral Services (Petersfield) Ltd, 19 The Square, Petersfield, Hants GU32 3HR, 01730 263 711.

SPURLING - Clive James, ex-Rhodesia / late of Bovey Tracey, Devon. Died 27th February 1999 in Bantry, Ireland. Funeral on 2nd March, 2.00pm at Bantry Catholic Church.

TAPP - Robert John on February 27th peacefully after a short illness borne with great courage. Beloved husband of Ann, loving father to Nicholas and Andrew and grandfather to Claudia, Cecily, Hugo and Sophie. Funeral Service at 10.45am on Friday March 5th at St Nicholas-at-Wade, Kent. Family flowers. Donations to Macmillan Cancer Relief or St Nicholas-at-Wade Church c/o W.S. Cole, Monkton CT12 4JQ, (01843) 821253.

TILTMAN - Marjorie Hessell (née Hand) peacefully at home in Sussex on 26th February aged 98. Widow of Hugh, greatly loved by her family and her many friends. Funeral at 12 noon on Thursday 4th March at St Mary's Church, Pulborough, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only but donations may be sent to St Mary's Church, Pulborough.

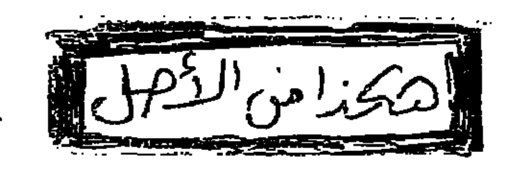
VAN DEN BOSCH - Ralph William. Husband of Marjorie, father of John, Christine Hinchliffe, Paul and Anthony and grandfather of ten children, died at his home on February 27th. Funeral will take place at St Thomas More R.C. Church in Bramley at 3.30 pm on March 5th. No flowers but donations to ORBIS and CAFOD please.

VERNON-HARCOURT - Col. William RD OBE peacefully in hospital. Much loved husband of Nancy, father of Anne and Tony, grandfather and great-grandfather. Service of Thanksgiving at All Saints Church, Denmead, 1 pm Monday 8th March. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Army Benevolent Fund c/o J. Edwards, 13 St Georges Walk, Waterlooville, PO7 7TU, tel: (01705) 262194.

WARWICK - Commodore William Eldon RD, CBE. First Master of SS Queen Elizabeth 2 and last surviving Captain of Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth, passed away peacefully at Virginia Water on Saturday morning, 27th February. Funeral will be held at Hanworth Crematorium at 2.15 pm on Monday 8th March.

WHETHERLY - On Friday 26th February, Robin Christopher Philip, aged 51, very peacefully, much loved father of Nicholas and Marina. Funeral on Friday, 5th March, at St George's Church, Ogbourne St George, near Marlborough at 11 o'clock. Enquiries to Chelsea Funeral Directors 0171 352 0008.

WILLIAMS - John Iorwerth. On Friday 26th February, peacefully, in his 96th year, devoted husband of the late Lilly, much loved father of Peter and Ned and daughters-in-law Sheila and Trisha, grandfather of Jon, Tim and Sophie, and great-grandfather of Claudia, Miranda and George. All enquiries to David Davies & Sons, Oswestry 01691 653116. No flowers please, but donations, if desired, to Hope House Children's Hospice Oswestry.

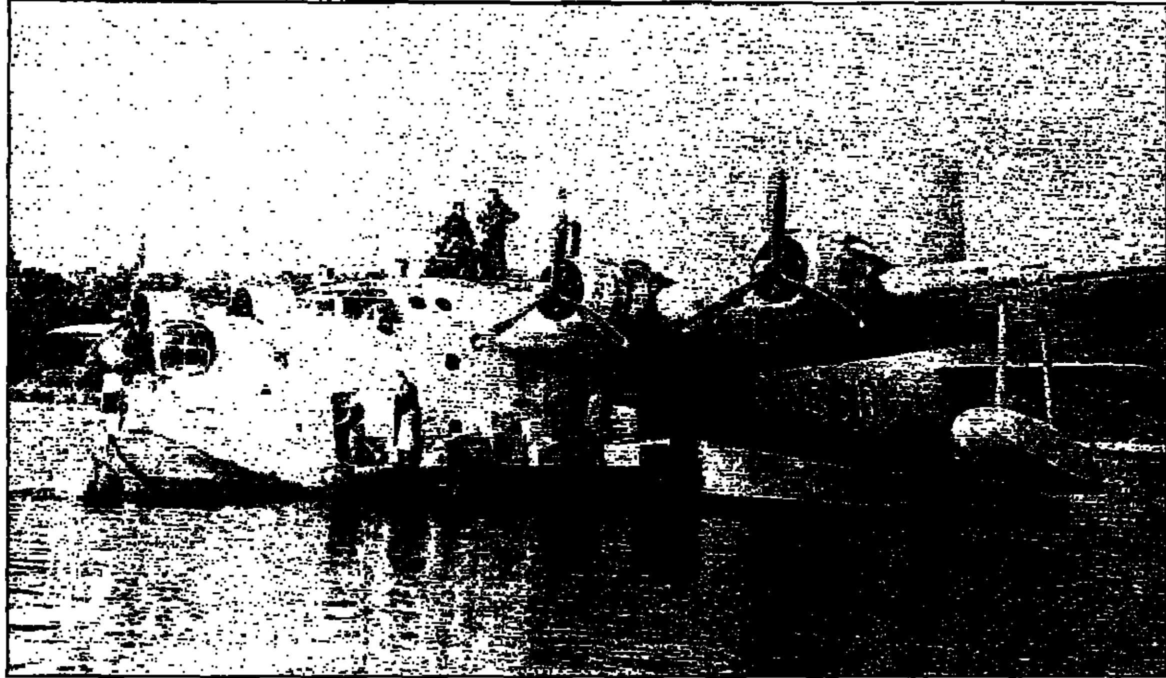


OBITUARIES

AIR COMMODORE FREDERICK RAINSFORD



Air Commodore Frederick Rainsford, CBE, DFC, bomber pilot and diplomat, died on February 13 aged 89. He was born on December 12, 1909.



A Sunderland flying boat delivers precious supplies to Lake Havel during the Berlin Airlift

After spending part of the war endeavouring to destroy Berlin as a bomber pilot, Frederick Rainsford found himself playing a central role in preventing the inhabitants of the beleaguered city from starving in 1948-49. The remarkable Berlin Airlift came about when, in June 1948, the Soviet Union reneged on the postwar Four Power Agreement for the administration of the city and blockaded all land routes into it. Since Berlin lay so deep inside the Soviet zone of occupation, the intention — to lay exclusive hands on Germany's capital — was evident.

Rainsford, as senior staff officer in the Air Ministry, played a pivotal role in organising the British end of what became a substantially Anglo-American air bridge into Berlin. It was an operation which from small beginnings fed Berliners, heated their homes and kept the city's industries going for almost a year, until the Russians relented and normal routes to the city were opened again. Implementation of the alternative at first suggested by the Americans — an armed land convoy — would almost certainly have led to a head-on clash with the Russians and possibly to a third world war.

Frederick Fitzpatrick Rainsford was an Irishman, born the son of a Royal Irish Constabulary officer at Castlebar, Co Mayo. He was educated at Campbell College, from where he went as a pupil farmer to Kenya. In the early 1930s he returned to Northern Ireland, where in 1935 he took a degree in agriculture at Queen's University, Belfast. While at university he learnt to fly with an RAF Special Reserve Squadron and was given a commission in 1936. For the next few years he gained experience in bombers.

When war broke out he was serving with 215 Squadron in Cambridgeshire and was thereafter on training duties for more than a year. His war really began when he was sent, early in 1941, to North Africa to take command of No 148, a Wellington squadron based on the Suez Canal.

As part of what was styled the Heavy Bomber Force (though the Wellington was really only a medium bomber) 148 regularly raided the harbour of Italian-occupied Benghazi, in what was known as the "Mail Run". The knack, as Rainsford later said, was to hit the harbour without damaging "Mae West", as the protuberant twin domes of the city's cathedral were known. When the Germans poured down through Greece, 148 Squadron added targets in the islands and on the Greek mainland to its list, and it also attacked the Vichy French in Lebanon.

Back in England, after further spells of training and a staff course, Rainsford was posted early in 1943 to the staff of 3 Group in Cambridgeshire, and spent the next six months planning raids on Berlin, the Ruhr and Nuremberg. In May that year he was given command of No 115, a Lancaster Squadron, and was soon in the thick of the Battle of the Ruhr which was then in full swing as Bomber Command tried to take the war to Germany's industrial heartland.

During a raid on Krefeld he had the disconcerting experience of having a 4,000lb bomb "hang up" on him, resisting the most desperate attempts of all his crewmen in turn to chop it clear of the bomb bay with the aircraft's axe. Rainsford gave his crew the option of baling out over England rather than participate in an attempted landing with such a lethal cargo, but to a man they chose to stay. While all on board, and in the control tower at 115's base at East Wretham, Norfolk, held their breath, Rainsford pulled off one of his most silken touchdowns. In July 1943 he and his squadron took part in the Battle of Hamburg, witnessing the firestorm which devastated the city. In the following month he and 115 were in the attack which wrecked the V2 testing site at Peenemünde on the Baltic Sea. He was awarded his DFC that autumn.

After this second tour of operations Rainsford spent the rest of the war on the staff and in training posts. In 1946 he briefly became a civil servant, but he was shortly afterwards offered a permanent commission which he gladly accepted.

One of his most important jobs in the Air Transport Department, to which he was posted in 1947 as deputy director of operations, was to organise what was known as the Trunk Route to Singapore. In those days before long-range jet transport shrank it to less than 12 hours, the distance represented a five-day haul, and the maintenance of effective facilities along the route was vital for the supply and, in emergency, the reinforcement of bases in the Far East. The experience of honing such an operation to perfection was to stand Rainsford in good stead when a supply crisis of a very different sort was to burst on him closer to home.

When the Berlin crisis broke he was No 2 to Air Commodore David Atcherley, the Director of Air Support and Transport Operations. But Atcherley was almost immediately posted away to command the Central Fighter Establishment, and Rainsford assumed sole responsibility for the British airlift.

At first it looked a hopeless task. But with a motley collection of aircraft both military and civil pressed into service, the daily tonnage leapt up: from 400 tons a day on July 3, 1948, to 750 tons a day by July 7, and so on up to an eventual total of 4,000 tons a day. An aircraft took off or landed at RAF Gatow in the British sector of Berlin every 90 seconds, carrying food, fuel and light machinery, and these were supplemented by Sunderland flying boats, which came in from Hamburg and put down on Lake Havel, bringing cargoes of coal.

Rainsford had to battle not only with logistics, but with the Treasury, which cavilled at the expense of chartering vast numbers of civil aircraft to supplement the RAF's transports. Rainsford told its officials that the avoidance of a world war was his first priority and that the cost of that would have to be worked out afterwards. Indeed, the British and Americans were prepared for an indefinite operation. And then, suddenly, in the summer of 1949 it was all over. The Russians gave up and lifted the blockade as precipitately as they had imposed it. Rainsford was appointed CBE for the part he had played.

His subsequent postings included a spell as Air Attaché at the Athens Embassy, 1957-60, and he retired from the RAF in 1962. But a new career in diplomacy awaited him, first with the Commonwealth Relations Service and, from 1965, with the Diplomatic Service. In the latter he had a period as Deputy Consul General in New York.

In 1972 Rainsford finally retired to the Kentish Weald where he had previously bought a house. An autobiography, *Memoirs of an Accidental Airman*, appeared in 1986.

Rainsford is survived by his second wife Audrey and by their daughter and son, and by two daughters of an earlier marriage which was dissolved.

KING OPOKU WARE II OF ASHANTI

King Opoku Ware II of Ashanti, died in Kumasi, Ashanti, Ghana, on February 25 aged 79. He was born on November 30, 1919.



Loyalty to his people without disturbing the relationship with Accra: King Opoku Ware II at a Grand Durbar, 1991

THE 15th Asantehene, as the King of Ashanti is known, Opoku Ware II ruled an ancient kingdom that is now an administrative region of Ghana. He did so in a manner which maintained the dignity of his position and people without disturbing the delicate relationship between Ashanti and the central government in Accra. A London-trained barrister, he had succeeded to the Golden Stool, as the Ashanti throne is styled, in 1970 on the death of King Prempeh II, his second cousin, who had ruled from 1931.

The genealogy of the Kings of Ashanti is a complex one, succession being matrilineal from the first Asantehene, King Osei Tutu, who came to the throne some time around 1675. The Ashanti Kingdom reached the zenith of its power in the 19th century when it covered an area of West Africa corresponding to much of modern Ghana as well as of neighbouring Burkina Faso, Togo and the Ivory Coast.

The Ashanti were in conflict with colonial Britain in the late 19th century and in 1896 British troops occupied the ancient capital, Kumasi, and deposed King Prempeh I. The Asantehene and many of his officials were sent into exile to the Seychelles. But the British were to find — as the governments of an independent Ghana have also experienced — that the cultural prestige of the Ashanti simply cannot be ignored. The British authorities were forced to relent and in 1925 Prempeh was brought back to Kumasi and reinstalled as King, ruling until his death in 1931.

As Matthew Poku, the future King Opoku Ware II read for the Bar at Lincoln's Inn. He served in a number of capacities in the old colony of Gold Coast: he was a surveyor in the RAF and became the first president of the African Civil Aviation Commission. The Gold Coast became independent as Ghana in 1957, the first of Britain's sub-Saharan African colonies to do so. But its first Prime Minister (and subsequently President), Kwame Nkrumah, was deposed for abuses of power in 1966 and Poku served the successor regime as Commissioner for Communications.

In 1970 he was appointed Ghana's Ambassador to Italy, but before he could take up his post King Prempeh II died and he was chosen 15th Asantehene from among the dead King's relations on his mother's side. He was "enstooled" at Kumasi on July 6, 1970.

The new Asantehene continued the tradition of striking a careful balance between visible allegiance to the Ghanaian state and his responsibility to the Ashanti people. For its part the state was careful not to offend this most visible and glamorous ethnic group which, although it constitutes only 30 per cent of Ghana's population, is the focus of widespread interest outside Africa for its cultural vitality.

Indeed, although he has no executive power in Ghana, the Asantehene is treated almost as a head of state in his own right. All heads of state visiting Ghana pay their respects in Kumasi and on one of his first trips abroad, a visit to Britain, King Opoku Ware II was received at Buckingham Palace.

He was fortunate in his wife, Lady Victoria, a member of an influential Ashanti family and an adroit diplomat in her own right.

She was always at his side on foreign trips and fully understood the need to balance the preservation of Ashanti tradition with the opening up of the monarchy to the modern world. She was active in arranging the spectacular Ashanti exhibition at the Museum of Mankind in London in 1981. When the exhibition subsequently transferred to New York, members of the American black community thronged the city's streets to catch a glimpse of the Asantehene, who had gone to the United States for the occasion.

Though by 1995 terminally ill with cancer, Victoria also played a prominent role in Opoku Ware's silver jubilee that year. In a celebration dazzling in its colour and light, chieftains in traditional robes, weighed down by gold and jewellery, came with their entourages to pay their respects to the leader of the Ashanti race.

Lady Victoria died in 1996. King Opoku Ware II is survived by a son and two daughters.

LORD DEAN OF BESWICK

Lord Dean of Beswick, Labour MP for Leeds West, 1974-83, and former leader of Manchester City Council, died on February 26 aged 76. He was born on June 3, 1922.



JOE DEAN was a member of the Manchester School — of engineers, not economists. He learnt his skills and discovered his commitment to socialism in the Gorton locomotive factory before moving in 1959 to the MetroVickers turbine works at Trafford Park, then one of the world's great engineering centres. Fred Lee, a future Labour minister, was chief shop steward, and Hugh Scanlon, later to be president of the AUEW, was already a prominent figure in the union. In 1983, these three alumni of Trafford Park were reunited when Lord Dean was introduced into the Upper House. Lord Lee was his sponsor on one side and Lord Scanlon on the other.

Dean was the product of a Manchester slum, one of six children living in a two-up two-down terrace house, and he was educated in classes of never fewer than 50, leaving school at the age of 14. His early luck was to secure an engineering apprenticeship. His later aim was to try to ensure that the slums were removed from Manchester, and as chairman of the city's housing committee he presided over the building of 100,000 homes for Manchester Corporation. He served on the council from 1959 to 1974, and was leader for five years before he was elected to the Commons in the first general election of 1974.

He had been expected to reach Westminster before then, when he stood for selection in the Ardwick constituency. He was the local candidate, with a distinguished municipal and trade union record, and he had the backing of the engineers' union. But his opponent, Gerald Kaufman, enjoyed the support of the previous MP, Leslie Lever, and came with the bearing of a man acquainted with No 10, where he was a member of Harold Wilson's kitchen cabinet and one of the Prime Minister's closest aides. Kaufman is believed to have won by a solitary vote.

Kaufman had crossed the Pennines from his home city of Leeds to secure a Manchester seat, and Dean made the opposite journey to gain selection for Leeds West in 1974. It had been a safe Labour constituency since the war, and as late as 1979 Dean held it by a majority of nearly 10,000. At the next election, however, in 1983, disaster struck. It was worse for Dean than losing the Ardwick nomination. Michael Meadowcroft, a Liberal who had worked the constituency on a street-to-street plan, won by more than 2,000 votes. It was one of the earliest and most effective examples of the Liberals' community politics. Meadowcroft held the seat for only one Parliament before it returned to Labour, but this marked the end of Dean's Commons career. Michael Foot recognised his work for the party, however, by allocating him one of the few life peerages at his disposal.

In the Commons, Dean had proved hard-working, amiable and well informed, particularly on housing and local government. He was making his way gradually up the Commons ladder, first as parliamentary private secretary to Charles Morris, the Civil Service Minister, and then in the Whips' Office. Although he knew the importance of constituency work, his parliamentary duties meant that he did not have so much time for Leeds West, and his insistence on keeping his home in Manchester did not help. Meadowcroft, with his Bradford degree, his membership of Leeds City Council and his home in the city, saw these weaknesses, and surprised even his own party by coasting home.

But this was far from the end of Dean's parliamentary career. Until his final illness, he was a genuine working peer. He went on to the opposition front bench almost immediately after his introduction. At various times he was a Labour spokesman on the environment, housing, energy and sport. His popularity among his colleagues was proved when he was selected as a representative of the Lords in the Shadow Cabinet.

He married in 1945 Helen Hill, one of the first women to hold office in the engineers' union. She died in May last year, but he is survived by two daughters.

ON THIS DAY

March 2, 1955

The rebellious poet, novelist, playwright and film-maker Jean Cocteau was duly elected to the Académie Française. "I always like to do the unconventional," he explained

ACADEMY 'IMMORTALS': M. COCTEAU'S CHANCES

Paris, March 1

Elections to three vacant seats in the Académie Française are to take place on Thursday, and partly because M. Jean Cocteau is a candidate somewhat out of the ordinary the affair is creating rather more interest than usual.

The elections would have brought the academy to its full strength of 40 members, but the deaths of M. Andre Chaumeix and M. Paul Claudel last week have left two other seats vacant, and they will have to be filled by subsequent elections.

The academy is the most illustrious of the five academies which comprise the Institut de France. Founded in 1635 by Cardinal Richelieu, its declared aim was and is "to establish firmly the rules of the language and make French not only elegant but capable of dealing with all arts and sciences".

Although many people would claim that the 40 "immortals", as they are known, are today a great deal less important on the literary scene than they used to be, and that the real mantle of literary arbitration has descended upon the Académie Goncourt, there is still no lack of people who would like to wear the green and gold uniform and bicorne hat of the academician.

In theory, anyone can offer himself as a candidate (it could be herself, though no woman has yet done so). The initiative must come from the aspirant, and this lack of any procedure equivalent to that of Rule II of the Athenaeum (by which distinguished men are made members in recognition of their achievement) undoubtedly prevents some people who would be obvious choices from being elected; M. Henry de Montherlant is an outstanding example of one who has been unable to face the prospect of what is, in effect, an electoral campaign.

The majority of the academy consists of writers or men connected with the world of letters, but among members are also generals, ambassadors, and one prince of the Church, Cardinal Grente, Archbishop of Le Mans.

As so often happens in France, men distinguished in public life are also distinguished in letters: thus of the academicians M. François-Poncet, the French High Commissioner in Germany, is a prolific author, the Archbishop of Le Mans is an author and historian, Maître Garçon, one of the most brilliant advocates in the country, has written several works, and M. Herriot is both an elder statesman and a man of letters.

M. Cocteau is believed to have a good chance and his election would, in the words of a conversation overheard recently in a Paris salon, "brighten the place up a bit". Through the deaths of M. Claudel and M. Chaumeix he has lost a supporter and an opponent, so that from the point of view of numbers his chances remain unchanged. M. Daniel-Rops, the Roman Catholic author and historian, is also well in the running. If these two should be elected, it will help to bring down the average age of the "immortals". Admiral Lacaze is 95, M. Henri Bordeaux is 85, and the Archbishop of Le Mans and M. Herriot are 83.

PERSONAL COLUMN

DEATHS

[illegible] - Hugh, suddenly on [illegible]day 28th February. Devoted Husband of the late Mary and beloved Father of Oonagh, Hugh, Shauna and Fiona, adored and loving Grandfather of his 14 Grandchildren. Deeply mourned by all who knew him. Requiem Mass at St William of York Roman Catholic Church, Ecclesall Road, Sheffield, on Friday 5th March at 10am. No flowers please but donations for CAFOD may be sent to G&M Lunt Funeral Directors, 36 Abbey Lane, Sheffield S8 0GB. Requiescat in Pace.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

TANNER - Professor P.A. (Tony). A Memorial Service for Professor Tony Tanner will be held in King's College Chapel, Cambridge at 2.30 pm on Saturday, 6th March 1999.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

BOOTH - Roland Gordon, died 2nd March 1988, beloved husband of Nancy, father of Joanna and Claire. Remembered today and always.

HILLYARD - Pat, much missed and always remembered. Much loved by all his family. Robin.

BIRTHDAYS

TARA Happy Birthday, you have been adopted in 1979. I never stopped loving you. From Montreal your first mother and your sisters. Ann Cardier 514 843 5248 or e-mail carra@total.net

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LEGAL NOTICES

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CHANCERY DIVISION COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF MERRYDOWN PLC
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 17 February 1999 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the share premium account of the Company by £3,675,931.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before The Registrar of Companies Court at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on 10 March 1999.

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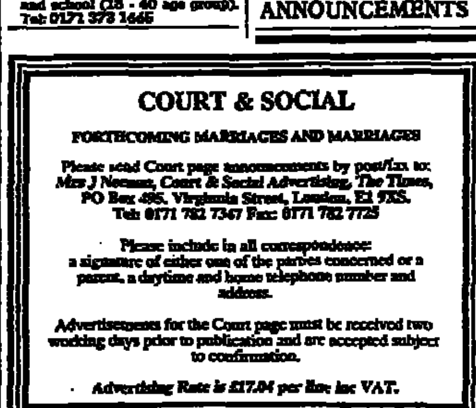
A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

DATED 26 March 1999
NICHOLSON GRAHAM & JONES
110 Cannon Street
London EC4N 6AR
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Fax: 0171 648 9001
Ref: KXM/M688-6
Solicitors for the Petitioner.

TO IAN CORICA, LAWRENCE LEVY, GOLDEN GRACE LTD, AND ADRENA WEISS:
RE: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
V
PATEK PHILLIPE, ET AL.

98 Civ. 6441 (LAK), and interpleader action pending in the United States District Court, SDNY. This action concerns a determination of the proper party to which the United States must return two Patek Phillipe watches in its possession. You are hereby notified that THE COURT HAS ORDERED YOU TO APPEAR, PLEAD OR ANSWER THE COMPLAINT BY MARCH 21, 1999 or default judgment will be taken against you and the subject property returned to one or the other competing claimants. You may obtain a copy of the summons and complaint upon written request, made within 7 calendar days of the date of this publication, to Mary Jo White, U.S. Atty, SDNY, 100 Church Street, New York, NY 10007 (Attn: AUSA Colton).

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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Advertisements for the Court page must be received two working days prior to publication and are accepted subject to confirmation.

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THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Bandits seize Britons on safari

■ Thirteen tourists, including up to five Britons, were kidnapped as they slept at a camp site in a Ugandan gorilla reserve. Their Hutu rebel attackers, who were armed with spears, guns and machetes, also killed a game warden and set cars and tents alight before fleeing into the forest.

The bandits are believed to have taken 27 people, including a French diplomat, from the camp but they later let all the women and children go..........Pages 1, 2

Prince goes near the bone over beef

■ The Prince of Wales was embroiled in a political controversy over beef on the bone after he and Alun Michael, the Welsh Secretary, ate the banned meat at a Welsh food promotion. An investigation by environmental health officials was under way to discover how they were offered the banned cut..........Page 1

Straw warns police

The Home Secretary Jack Straw gave a warning to chief constables to take race policing seriously or face government intervention in their forces.......Pages 1, 9

Care of the old

Frank Dobson was last night accused of "dithering" after delaying his response to a Royal Commission report calling for a £1.2 billion annual package to give free long-term nursing care to elderly people..........Pages 1, 4

Solicitors' crisis

More than 100 solicitors will attend a crisis meeting at the Law Society today to demand action over a multi-million pound shortfall in the fund which pays out on negligence claims..........Page 2

Balloon challenge

The challenge to be the first team to circumnavigate the globe in a balloon became a true race with the launch of Breitling Orbiter 3 in the Swiss Alps..........Page 3

Drinking time

Students at Oxford are opposing plans to cut college bar opening hours in an attempt to improve examination results..........Page 5

£2.5 million award

A girl aged ten whose intelligent mind is trapped inside a gravely disabled body was awarded £2.5 million..........Page 7

Sceptic Owen

Lord Owen, head of the new pro-European but anti-single currency lobby group, admitted at its launch that he was prepared to share a platform with Tory Eurosceptics..........Page 8

Teatime battle

Channel 5 marshalled its forces to join the battle of the teatime news programmes..........Page 10

Israel alert

The United States sent urgent diplomatic messages to Israel, Syria and Lebanon, urging restraint in the new crisis along Israel's northern border..........Page 12

Frozen misery

Faith in the West is melting with the winter snow for the people of Gjare. The 350 ethnic Albanian villagers are scratching an existence in the open and freezing in sub-zero temperatures..........Page 13

Chinese anger

On the second day of a strained visit by Madeleine Albright Beijing launched a furious attack on America over reports that the Chinese were building a missile force to intimidate Taiwan..........Page 14

Cancer shock

Cancer-causing chemicals in car fumes have left residents of Los Angeles hundreds of times more at risk of fatal disease than the Clean Air Act allows..........Page 15

Britain needs spies, says Le Carré

■ Spies should come in from the cold, despite East-West détente, the spy writer John le Carré has said. The former MI6 intelligence officer declared in a rare lecture that spies are needed more than ever. With the former Soviet Union fragmented, Britain's spies had a tough challenge to keep pace with the proliferation of problems in smaller countries..........Page 11

ASHLEY COOMBES



On the day when Gleneagles opened to non-members for the first time in ten years, the weather ensured that all three courses were closed

BUSINESS

Soft landing: The stock market slumped on fears of an end to the recent spree of interest rate cuts while the the pound gained after new data suggested the economy is on course for a soft landing....Page 27

Bid approach: First Choice Holidays confirmed it had received preliminary approaches that could lead to offers for the company, lifting shares 24p to 180p..........Page 27

Canary float: Canary Wharf, Britain's largest commercial office complex owner, is to float the company on the stock market at a value of up to £2.6 billion..........Page 27

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 114.2 to 6060.9. The pound rose 0.62 cents to $1.6075 and 0.53p against the euro to 68.01p. The sterling index rose to 101.6 from 100.9.....Page 30

SPORT

Cricket: England became the first of the Test-playing countries to announce their squad for the World Cup. It includes Michael Atherton and Andrew Flintoff..........Page 52

Football: The hopes of Chelsea's Graeme le Saux avoiding detection and punishment for his assault on Robbie Fowler have been foiled after the FA asked the BBC for its videotape..........Page 52

Rugby union: Peter Rogers, formerly with Transvaal, and Brett Sinkinson, formerly with Waikato will win their first caps for Wales against France..........Page 49

Rowing: Cambridge's crew for the Boat Race is the tallest ever, with Josh West setting an individual record at 6ft 9in, although the cox, Vian Sharif, is only 5ft.......Page 50

Jubilee sights: When it finally opens, London Underground's Jubilee Line extension to Greenwich will be a showcase for Britain's finest architects..........Page 18

Cage stumbles: Hugely hyped before its American opening last weekend, *8mm* takes Nicolas Cage on a baffling journey into the tacky world of snuff movies.......Page 19

Terfel triumphs: In Sydney the Welsh baritone Bryn Terfel has scored a big success in the title-role of Verdi's *Falstaff*, which he will be bringing to Covent Garden next season..........Page 20

On the road: Gene have embarked on a long tour to improve their position in the lower division of Britpop celebrity..........Page 21

Run of his life: Last year, over drinks in Langan's Brasserie, John Spurling, semi-retired, overweight and out of condition, agreed to run in the Flora London Marathon. Worse, the 59-year-old pledged to raise £1million..........Page 16

Medicine chest: Dr Thomas Stuttaford explains why avid runners need have no worries about their cardiovascular system when they run the Marathon..........Page 16

Going natural: Jane Shilling had never had so much as a whiff of an aromatherapist's essence when a disastrous year made her cast aside her scepticism..........Page 17

Beacon Britain: "Only then can Britain aspire again to be a beacon on race equality and can you be remembered as a Prime Minister who truly made Britain a fairer, more equal society." Kamlesh Bahl writes to Mr Blair..........Page 41

Write stuff: The winning essay in the *Times* Law Awards 1998 with One Essex Court..........Page 43

The visit of the Israeli Prime Minister and Foreign Minister to Jordan was intended to shape the initial relations between Israel and King Abdullah's Jordan. What was Netanyahu thinking when he mentioned Jordan as an example of a state that tried to revive the eastern front?

— *Ha'aretz, Tel Aviv*

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **INTERFACE**

How to be a star of the worldwide web: put your life online. But could you face it?

■ **HOMES**

Why many elderly protected tenants are facing rent rises

Preview: First of a three-part series: *The Bill* (ITV, 8pm). **Review:** Twists, tensions, bonds and betrayals are deftly woven in *Births, Marriages and Deaths*......Pages 50, 51

Care free

The majority of the Royal Commission on Long Term Care thought the unthinkable but not in the Prime Minister's way..........Page 23

Hope for Nigeria

Olusegun Obasanjo's victory is a rare cause for celebration in a country that has known little democracy, almost no good government and is seen as one of the most corrupt in the world..........Page 23

Bring back Mr Chips

It would not take a maths teacher to work out that the equation does not balance: in England and Wales some 8,000 teachers are seeking work in schools; meanwhile, classrooms are struggling to cope with shortages of staff..........Page 23

LIBBY PURVES

For what is that weekly contest across the dispatch boxes, if not a duel between Ping the Elastic Man and the bald-pated ostrichian figure of Big Eggo himself?...Page 22

GERALD KAUFMAN

There is no significant element which would be unrepresented if the Tories shut up shop.....Page 22

RICHARD TYRRELL

The Internet is not all listed buildings and photos of roses and Prince William. Ninety per cent is devoted to pornography..........Page 22

PETER RIDDELL

The Wakeham commission on the future of the House of Lords can either deliver the minimalist package which the Government wants, or it can think boldly..........Page 8

Air Commodore Frederick Rainsford, bomber pilot and diplomat; **Opoku Ware II**, King of Ashanti; **Lord Dean of Beswick**, former Labour MP..........Page 25

The Lawrence inquiry and racism in schools; Royalties on works of art; Bishops and the Lords; Gulf War illness..........Page 23

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,040

ACROSS

1 Early restriction on freedom of dramatist? (4-3).
5 The French crew in court creating a disturbance (7).
9 Neckwear provided by Belfast policeman? (5).
10 Book every social occasion for seaside amusement (5-4).
11 One can't be out, playing this sort of game (6).
12 Boring speakers deviate a lot (8).
14 Insect's very small tail dropped off (5).
15 Keeping tempo, adjust this highly regarded instrument (9).
18 Bananas aren't nice – get this fruit instead (9).
20 Complete egghead in family group (5).
22 By the way, it is a furious attack with no leader (8).
24 Reduced text produced after taking skimpy notes (6).
26 Behaviour of humble old Sumerian city (9).
27 Burning with anger following return of note (5).
28 Back Cockney's runner after tip (7).
29 Head off from most taxing mountain (7).

DOWN

1 By Christmas, finally put single decoration on tree (9).
2 Agreed to write a small volume with editors (7).
3 Mobile phone has bad name for producing strange effects (9).
4 New sailor's collars (4).
5 Driver getting round a disturbance amid applause (10).
6 Garden pest reducible to a degree if one is removed (5).
7 An obstruction to worker in firm (7).
8 *Attacks using hammers* (5).
13 Friend in capital acquiring diamonds for Hannah, say (10).
16 One friend includes another in intrigue (9).
17 Coming back up trail after near disaster (9).
19 Attracted by Church militant? (7).
21 English gamble, without doubt making a pile (7).
22 Highland feature good to see during trip (5).
23 Commotion about a part of the flight (5).
25 Bird settled in to feather nest (4).

Solution to Puzzle No. 21,039



Times Two Crossword, page 52

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

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Moon sets: 7.00 am
Moon rises: 6.00 pm

Full moon today

London 5.41 pm to 6.42 am
Bristol 5.52 pm to 6.52 am
Edinburgh 5.48 pm to 7.01 am
Manchester 5.48 pm to 6.53 am
Penzance 6.05 pm to 7.03 am

☐ **General:** most areas windy but mild. Rain spreading across England, Wales and Northern Ireland will clear to sunny spells and showers. Scotland will have rain, with snow over hills and mountains. Northern Isles will stay dry and cold. Tonight cold and showery, some mist and fog patches.

☐ **London, SE & E England, E Anglia, Central S England, Midlands, Channel Islands:** mild with outbreaks of rain throughout the day. Fresh SW wind. Max 12C (57F)

☐ **NW & SW England, Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N England:** cloudy, wet and mild. Brighter but still showery in the afternoon. Fresh SW wind. Max 13C (55F)

☐ **NE England:** starting dry but rain soon moving in; mild. Fresh SW wind. Max 11C (52F)

☐ **Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NW & NE Scotland, Argyll:** starting dry and bright but cold. Rain soon arriving and turning to snow on hills. Fresh SE wind. Max 7C (45F)

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen:** clouding over with heavy rain, possibly snow on the hills. Fresh SW wind. Max 9C (48F)

☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands:** turning cloudy with heavy rain, falling as snow for a time on higher ground. Brighter later. Max 9C (48F)

☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** mainly dry with sunny spells but clouding over in the afternoon. Light E wind. Max 5C (45F)

☐ **Northern Ireland:** rain clearing to sunshine and showers. Fresh SW wind. Max 12C (54F)

☐ **Irish Republic:** dull and wet at first, becoming brighter with blustery heavy showers by midday. Strong SW wind. Max 13C (55F)

☐ **Outlook:** colder with sunshine and wintry showers, sleet and snow in Scotland.

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gales; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; s=sun; t=thunder

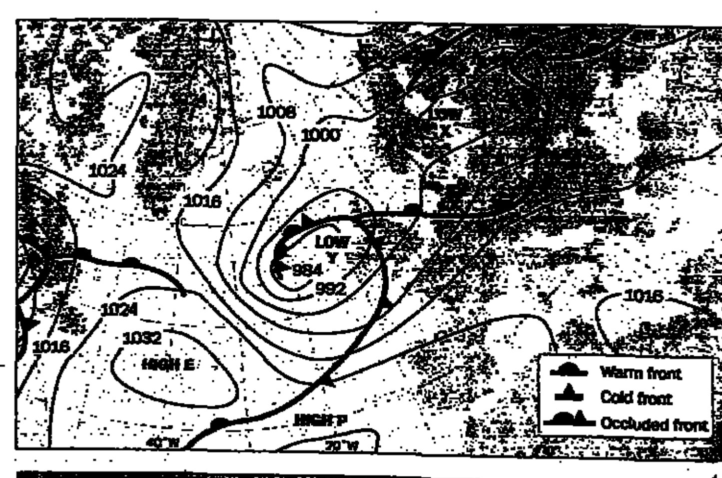
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	6.9	-	9	48	s
Anglesey	-	0.25	11	52	r
Aspatria	1.5	0.25	9	48	r
Aviemore	7.2	0.02	7	45	sh
Belfast	0.8	0.31	8	46	c
Birmingham	1.1	0.19	14	57	b
Bognor R	-	0.27	12	54	c
Bournemth	-	0.15	13	55	d
Bristol	-	0.56	11	52	d
Buxton	-	1.33	10	50	r
Cardiff	-	0.24	11	52	r
Clacton	1.3	0.11	13	55	r
Cleethorpes	1.2	0.31	12	54	d
Colwyn Bay	0.4	0.23	13	55	r
Cromer	1.1	0.28	13	55	r
Eastbourne	-	0.42	11	52	r
Edinburgh	4.3	0.03	8	46	b
Eskdalemuir	1.7	0.15	7	45	r
Exmouth	1.0	0.02	14	57	c
Fishguard	-	0.22	11	52	d
Folkestone	-	0.17	12	54	c
Glasgow	3.3	0.24	8	46	sh
Guernsey	-	0.22	13	55	d
Hastings	-	0.33	11	52	c
Hayling I.	0.9	0.17	11	52	c
Herne Bay	0.6	0.03	14	57	c
Hove	-	0.17	10	50	c
Hunstanton	0.6	0.13	11	52	c
Isle of Man	2.7	0.48	9	48	b
Isle of Wight	X	0.19	12	54	c
Jersey	-	0.14	12	54	d
Kinloss	9.1	0.01	9	48	s
Leeds	2.8	0.20	12	54	r
Lerwick	5.6	0.15	5	41	h
Leuchars	6.5	-	9	48	b
Littlehampton	-	0.30	12	54	d
London	-	0.15	14	57	r
Lowestoft	0.9	0.26	14	57	r
Manchester	-	0.44	12	54	r
Margate	0.2	0.07	14	57	du
Morecambe	3.6	0.44	9	48	r
Newcastle	4.4	0.32	10	50	r
Newquay	-	0.46	11	52	r
Norwich	0.7	0.22	14	57	r
Oxford	1.5	0.11	15	59	r
Penzance	0.5	0.54	14	57	r
Prestatyn	-	0.46	12	54	r
Ross on Wye	0.1	0.06	14	57	c
Saunton Sands	-	0.39	10	50	du
Scarborough	1.7	0.43	11	52	r
Shrewsbury	2.3	0.04	14	57	sh
Skegness	2.3	0.27	13	55	r
Southend	-	0.05	13	55	sh
Southport	X	0.41	11	52	d
Southsea	1.3	0.05	12	54	c
Stornoway	6.3	0.19	8	46	sh
Swanage	0.7	0.27	12	54	d
Teignmouth	0.9	0.09	14	57	c
Tenby	-	0.29	12	54	r
Weymouth	0.6	0.11	12	54	d

Extremes yesterday: highest day temperature, Barbourne, Herefordshire, 16C (61F); lowest day temperature, Loch Glascarnoch, Highland, 5C (41F); rainfall, Capel Curig, Gwynedd, 1.63in; sunshine, Kinloss, Moray, 9.1 hrs

	C	F	
Ajaccio	15	59	c
Akrotiri	20	68	s
Alex'dria	19	66	c
Algiers	17	63	c
Amst'dm	9	48	s
Athens	15	59	s
Bahrain	25	77	sh
Bangkok	33	91	f
Barbados	27	81	f
Barcelona	13	55	c
Beijing	11	52	s
Beirut	16	61	s
Belgrade	17	63	s
Berlin	9	48	f
Bermuda	20	68	s
Biarritz	12	54	s
Bordeaux	12	54	f
Brussels	9	48	s
Budapest	11	52	s
B Aires	27	81	f
Cairo	13	55	r
Cape Tn	23	73	f
Chicago	3	37	f
Ch'church	X		
Cologne	11	52	s
C'phagn	5	41	c
Corfu	16	61	s
Dublin	9	48	r
Dubrovnik	12	54	f
Faro	18	64	s
Florence	10	50	c
Frankfurt	9	48	f
Funchal	16	61	c
Geneva	7	45	d
Gibraltar	15	59	s
Helsinki	-3	27	sn
Hong K	22	72	f
Innsbruck	8	46	s
Istanbul	11	52	s
Jeddah	27	81	c
Jo'burg	29	84	s
L Palmas	19	66	c
Le Touquet	8	46	f
Lisbon	15	59	s
Locarno	10	50	s
L Angeles	19	66	s
Luxembg	5	41	c
Luxor	21	70	s
Madrid	12	54	f
Majorca	17	63	f
Malaga	16	61	s
Malta	15	59	c
Melbourne	25	77	f
Mexico C	18	64	s
Miami	27	81	s
Milan	11	52	s
Montreal	3	37	f
Moscow	-3	27	c
Munich	6	43	c
Nairobi	X		
Naples	16	61	f
N Delhi	23	73	s
N York	8	46	r
Nice	15	59	s
Oslo	1	34	f
Paris	7	45	f
Perth	29	84	f
Prague	8	46	f
Reykjavik	-2	28	s
Rhodes	17	63	s
Rio de J	26	79	f
Riyadh	29	84	s
Rome	15	59	s
R'nldsway	8	46	r
Salzburg	-9	48	f
S Frisco	12	54	s
Santiago	22	72	f
Seoul	4	39	f
Singapore	30	86	f
Stockholm	3	37	c
Strasb'rg	9	48	f
Sydney	23	73	c
Tangier	14	57	c
Tel Aviv	17	63	c
Tenerife	18	64	c
Tokyo	10	50	s
Toronto	5	41	c
Tunis	16	61	c
Valencia	14	57	c
Vanc'ver	10	50	f
Venice	11	52	s
Vienna	11	52	s
Warsaw	7	45	c
Wash'ton	8	46	f
Wellington	19	66	X
Zurich	5	41	r

Temperatures at midday local time, Sunday. X = not available

Changes to the chart below from noon: highs E and P will remain slow moving; low Y will move slowly northeast; low X will drift east and fill



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	1:24	4.2	13:33	4.4
Avonmouth	7:22	13.3	19:45	13.3
Belfast	11:09	3.6	23:42	3.3
Cardiff	7:08	12.3	19:31	12.3
Devonport	6:05	5.4	18:28	5.2
Dover	11:12	6.6	23:29	6.7
Dublin	11:50	4.3	-	-
Falmouth	5:36	5.2	17:59	5.0
Greenock	0:42	3.1	12:37	3.5
Harwich	-	-	12:04	3.9
Holyhead	10:29	5.7	22:51	5.5
Hull (Albert D)	6:28	8.4	18:36	8.8
Ilfracombe	6:07	9.2	18:28	9.2
King's Lynn	6:27	6.4	18:31	6.7
Leith	2:38	5.5	14:58	5.6
Liverpool	11:26	9.5	23:46	9.4
London Bridge	1:51	7.0	14:15	7.2
Lowestoft	9:49	2.4	21:43	2.6
Margate	0:00	4.6	12:31	4.6
Milford Haven	6:21	6.9	18:42	6.9
Newquay	5:12	6.9	17:33	6.9
Oban	5:55	3.9	18:22	3.9
Penzance	4:43	5.5	17:03	5.4
Portland	6:57	2.0	19:36	1.9
Portsmouth	11:18	4.5	23:43	4.6
Shoreham	11:20	6.2	23:47	6.3
Southampton	11:01	4.4	23:28	4.6
Swansea	6:27	12.4	18:47	12.3
Tees	3:51	9.8	16:04	10.0
Walton-On-Naze	-	-	12:00	4.2

All times GMT. Heights in metres.



Total number of lives saved so far this year:	46
Total number of lifeboat launches so far this year:	224
Cost to RNLI per day:	£222,000
Cost to taxpayer:	£0
To make a donation, telephone:	0800 543210



One man and the law

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Terfel's Falstaff triumph

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY MARCH 2 1999

Market slides as Bank rate cut fears grow

By Alasdair Murray
Economics Correspondent

THE STOCK market slumped yesterday as fears of a halt to the Bank of England's recent rate-cutting spree and a possible rate rise in the United States forced investors to the sidelines.

The pound, however, made ground against both the dollar and the euro after new data suggested the UK economy is on course for a soft landing.

January consumer credit growth was stronger than expected, while a rise in the February Purchasing Managers' Index bolstered hopes that the manufacturing sector is beginning to turn the corner.

Consumer credit showed robust growth of £1.38 billion, broadly in line with the recovery in high street sales that month, compared with £670 million in December.

The UK Purchasing Managers' Index crept higher although it still points to an overall contraction in output for the 11th consecutive month. The improvement was led by the export sector, with export order books recording smallest deterioration since December 1997.

The City interpreted the data as evidence the Bank of England may leave rates on hold after the conclusion of its monthly monetary policy meeting which begins today. However, the decision is still finely balanced and the MPC may ultimately be swayed by an expected Treasury briefing on the Government's Budget arithmetic.

IN BUSINESS is the new weekly section launched in The Times today to give a voice to small and medium-sized firms with big ambitions..............pages 34, 35

The FTSE 100 index of leading shares closed down 114.2 points at 6,060.9 in slow trade, having at one stage fallen by as much as 140 points. Investors were also unnerved by strong US economic data which knocked shares on Wall Street and heightened speculation that the Federal Reserve may be forced to raise rates.

US fourth-quarter GDP figures were revised upwards to show an annualised growth rate of 6.1 per cent. The robust data gave a boost to the dollar, which climbed to a fresh record high against the euro, touching $1.0887. The euro was also affected by weak euroland industrial production figures published yesterday.

However, analysts have all but ruled out a rate cut when the European Central Bank meets on Thursday after the euroland measure of M3 money supply unexpectedly jumped from 4.5 per cent to 5.7 per cent in January. A top ECB official also added to the impression that the bank will again leave rates unchanged. Christian Noyer, ECB vice-president, rejected claims that parts of the euro area, and in particular Germany, may be on the verge of deflation.

The pound also regained some ground against the euro, which fell from 68.54p to 68.01p. Against the dollar, the pound climbed from $1.6013 to $1.6075.

Business Today



Anatole Kaletsky
says Blair should face up to the euro's implications

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FTSE 100	6060.9	(-114.2)
Yield	2.63%	
FTSE All Share	2784.06	(-41.33)
Nikkei	14221.75	(-145.79)
New York		
Dow Jones	9292.72	(-13.86)*
S&P Composite	1229.79	(-8.54)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5⅛%*	(4⅞%)
Long bond	94⅞*	(95⅞)
Yield	5.67%*	(5.58%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	5⅝%	(5 21/32%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	115.71	(116.25)

STERLING

New York		
$	1.6055*	(1.6017)
London:		
$	1.6078	(1.6020)
€	1.4705	(1.4599)
SFr	2.3406	(2.3214)
Yen	192.00	(190.03)
£ Index	101.6	(100.9)

DOLLAR

London:		
€	1.0891*	(1.1025)
SFr	1.4625*	(1.4470)
Yen	119.83*	(118.95)
$ Index	108.2	(107.7)

Tokyo close Yen 118.14

Brent 15-day (May)	$10.95	($11.00)

London close	$285.65	($286.95)

* denotes midday trading prices

Exchange rates ....Page 28

GEC deal in US marks start of transition

By Adam Jones

GEC took the first steps in its effort to redefine itself yesterday when it earmarked much of the cash it will receive from the sale of Marconi Electronic Systems to buy Reltec, a US telecommunications group, for $2.1 billion (£1.3 billion).

When it announced the Marconi defence sale to British Aerospace in January, GEC said it would be left with about £2.7 billion in cash to pursue acquisitions, assuming the BAe deal receives regulatory clearance, plus a £4 billion "backstop" loan facility. Lord Simpson of Dunkeld, the GEC chief executive, had declared that he now wanted to create a business twice the size of "the old GEC".

Yesterday's deal was the first manifestation of this ambition and the market responded favourably, marking up GEC shares from 498p to 516p. Lord Simpson said: "We are moving on to the front foot to grow the business again as quickly as we can."

Reltec sells telecommunications hardware and services to blue chip telephone companies such as Sprint and BellSouth.

Michael Blogg, an analyst at Charterhouse Tilney, said: "It looks like a good deal. There was a concern that, with all that money due to them, they would go out and spend quite exorbitant amounts to get the sort of acquisitions they wanted."

He said the $2.1 billion price, which includes $361 million of assumed net debt, looked "quite reasonable" in relation to earnings. Reltec made unaudited earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation of $139.8 million in 1998. It had sales of $1.067 billion in 1998, with 86 per cent coming from the US.

GEC is paying $29.50 per share for Reltec, whose shares had gone as high as $49.50 last spring. Reltec's share price was hit last September by a warning that third-quarter results would be disappointing. The shares plunged to as low as $12.625.

Lord Simpson said there had been problems with a Reltec subsidiary in Europe but he said these have since been ironed out: "Reltec has rationalised it and it is now back on track."

GEC said the deal would be earnings enhancing before goodwill. The rationale of the deal is that GEC transmission products — the telecommunications equivalent of motorway infrastructure — will be sold through Reltec in the US.

Reltec's "access" products — the equivalent of the last mile of road before someone's home — will be sold through GEC in Europe.

The access products are able to make the existing copper wire connections "punch above their weight", behaving more like modern fibreoptic networks in their ability to carry information for Internet use or digital television. There has been an explosion in demand for these services, putting a strain on the US telecoms infrastructure.

Reltec, which is based in Cleveland, Ohio, also provides services such as system design and integration for its customers but these activities produce lower profit margins than the hardware sales, a spokeswoman said. Lord Simpson does not anticipate job losses, even though Reltec, which employs 6,600 worldwide, has a small staff presence in the UK and Europe.

Lord Simpson said he expects the sale of the Marconi defence arm to be decided in the UK rather than by the European Commission, under arrangements that allow member states to maintain control over arms industry mergers.

BEN GURR



George Iacobescu says there are five million square feet of potential offices and shops

Wharf float tax-break lure

TAX BREAKS worth hundreds of millions of pounds will underpin the £2.6 billion flotation of Canary Wharf. The Docklands office development, which yesterday confirmed its plans to raise more than £600 million in a new issue, will offer institutions the benefit of historic tax incentives worth some £400 million (Carl Mortished writes).

The 81-acre site east of the City of London still benefits from 100 per cent capital allowances made available to developers in Enterprise Zones. These mean that Canary Wharf can write off the entire construction cost of a building against its tax bill. The combination of tax breaks and losses in the early 1990s means that Canary Wharf will pay no tax for many years.

The prospect of a company shielded from the Inland Revenue is attractive. One expert said: "This will be the first tax-transparent property vehicle."

The flotation will spark a debate on how property companies should be valued. According to George Iacobescu, chief executive, there are five million square feet of potential offices and shops with planning permits at Canary Wharf.

A letting to Salomon Smith Barney is imminent, believed to be struck at £36 per square foot.

Airborne Canary, page 31

Approaches give 16% lift to First Choice

By Sarah Cunningham

SHARES of First Choice Holidays leapt 16 per cent yesterday after the company announced that it had received approaches from more than one potential buyer.

Airtours, its acquisitive rival, and Preussag, the Germany company that is buying 50.1 per cent of Thomas Cook, are seen as the most likely bidders. Other possible suitors include C&N Touristic, the second-largest German tour operator, and SAirGroup, the parent of Swissair.

Airtours, which failed in an attempt to take over First Choice in 1993, recently raised £300 million in fund acquisitions but would probably have to issue new shares to help to fund a new bid.

First Choice was valued at just over £607 million yesterday after its shares rose 24½p to 180p. Airtours declined to say whether it had approached First Choice.

Shares in Airtours rose 18½p to 495p, while Thomson Travel rose 11½p to 180½p.

Analysts have been expecting to see large-scale consolidation among the travel companies since the industry emerged virtually unscathed from a recent Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation.

Shares in First Choice, which touched a low of 83p last October, rose strongly last week after it was rumoured that a bid of 220p a share, valuing the company at about £750 million, was being prepared.

Preussag, which has been replacing its traditional activities in steel, coal and engineering with travel and leisure, raised DM2 billion (£700 million) to expand its tourism business.

Preussag agreed in December last year to take over Germany's biggest chain of travel agents, First Reiseburo, and to buy 50.1 per cent of Thomas Cook. It already owns Germany's Hapag-Lloyd.

Analysts said yesterday that a combination of Thomas Cook and First Choice would make sense. Thomas Cook has strong products, while First Choice has the distribution channels. Moreover, Thomas Cook has a stake of 14 per cent in First Choice, a legacy from when it went to the aid of Owners Abroad when it was fighting off the 1993 Airtours bid.

First Choice announced in December that it had trebled its annual pre-tax profits thanks to acquisitions and cost-cutting. It also said that the outlook was good, with summer bookings 14 per cent ahead. Profit before tax for the year to October 31 rose from £15.4 million to £50 million.

The company has been building a network of travel agents, and recently announced plans to have about 700 shops within three years.

SAirGroup, as the Swissair holding company was renamed in 1997, bought a 49.9 per cent stake in LTU, a German charter airline and tour operator, last December as part of an attempt to create a new European leisure-travel group. LTU, which is based in Dusseldorf, is the parent of Germany's third-largest tour operator.

Speculation about First Choice has been fuelled by the fact that Phillips & Drew is a major shareholder with 13 per cent. The fund manager has recently brokered numerous takeovers for its poorer-performing stocks.

First Choice's management would share £4.3 million if they accepted a bid at the 180p level. Peter Long, managing director, would make £1.84 million.

Care-costs blow for insurers

By Marianne Curphey

BRITAIN'S insurance firms suffered a blow yesterday with the report by the royal commission into long-term care recommending that the State meet the care costs of the UK's elderly population.

Insurers had hoped the commission would call for compulsory insurance or provision through private-public partnership. The Government has decided to put the proposals out to formal consultation and pending a final decision insurers are unable to take much advantage of the market, which has been worth about £100 million to them. Although just 10,000 people have bought long-term care plans, they can cost up to about £15,000 for a single-premium product.

The Association of British Insurers said that if the commission's proposals to split the cost of care from the cost of accommodation in nursing homes were implemented insurers could provide more affordable policies.

Mirror rejects Trinity

TRINITY, the UK's largest regional newspaper group, was last night considering its options after having its cash and shares offer for Mirror Group rejected out of hand (Raymond Snoddy writes).

Mirror Group told the Stock Exchange that it had rejected an indicative offer for the company, valuing it at about £1 billion, made by Trinity on Friday.

Trinity had offered 0.35 new Trinity shares and 40p in cash for each Mirror share valuing the deal at 210p. The value moved up to 215p a share by the end of the day as Trinity rose 9p to 495p after it announced a 13.4 per cent increase in pre-tax profits, before exceptionals to £83.8 million.

Mirror Group said Trinity was offering "an inadequate premium for a change of control". Expressing surprise at the speed of the rebuff, Philip Graf, Trinity chief executive, said: "It remains our intention that this should be done on a friendly basis."

Trinity's rivals for Mirror Group, Regional Independent Media, publisher of the *Yorkshire Post*, is likely to apply this week to the Department of Trade and Industry for formal permission to acquire Mirror.

Commentary, page 29

SAB's muted opening

SHARES of South African Breweries, the latest migrant to the London Stock Exchange from the Cape, jumped to an immediate 19p premium yesterday as conditional dealings began (Robert Cole writes).

Stock was placed at 428p and closed the day at 447p, up 4.4 per cent. At one point the shares were changing hands at 460p. Analysts said the stock had received only a "lukewarm" reception. SAB raised £150 million placing new shares in the company, but held back on its option to issue an additional £50 million of stock. An additional £150 million of shares being sold by pre-existing investors, however, were also placed.

Seventy per cent of the shares were bought by UK institutions. Another 20 per cent were sold to American investment houses with the remainder going to the Continent and Japan. At 447p SAB, which is already listed in Johannesburg, is worth £3.4 billion and is in line to join the FTSE 100 index of leading UK quoted companies later this month.

Unconditional dealings, following approval of the shares from the London Stock Exchange, begin next Monday.

Tempus, page 30

SLPH profits halved by bad weather spell

By Marianne Curphey, Insurance Correspondent

GENERAL insurance profits at Sun Life and Provincial Holdings (SLPH), the UK insurer controlled by AXA of France, have halved as a result of bad-weather claims in 1998.

SLPH launched a £3.4 billion bid for Guardian Royal Exchange in January and said yesterday a strategic review would settle the fate of two of GRE's business units.

Rumours had been circulating that Mark Wood, group chief executive of SLPH, was preparing to sell GRE's Irish and UK Life operations once the deal had gone through.

He said yesterday, however, that it was "too early to say" what would happen to the businesses until the review had been completed in four to five months' time.

SLPH unveiled a 14 per cent rise in full-year operating profits in 1998 to £247.1 million (1997 pro-forma: £216.5 million).

Weather-related claims of £14.5 million affected SLPH's general insurance operating profit before tax which fell to £26 million (1997: pro-forma £52.2 million).

The insurer's results were boosted, however, by a 21 per cent rise in life and pensions operating profit to £210.3 million (1997 pro-forma £173.3 million).

The group said the 1997 merger between AXA Equity and Law and Sun Life had been completed within 18 months, six months ahead of schedule, and estimated savings had increased to £47 million (originally £37 million).

Asset management operating profit before tax increased 24 per cent to £29.1 million (1997: £23.4 million) and the full-year dividend is up 15 per cent to 13.5p per share.

SLPH said the proposed merger with GRE would generate £55 million of savings per year, up from the previous estimate of £50 million.

The group has spent £6 million promoting the AXA brand but Mr Wood said he intended to keep the Sun Life brand and the PPP healthcare brand for the short term.

If the proposed deal with GRE goes ahead, the group would derive 61 per cent of premiums from UK life business, 10 per cent from health, 5 per cent from Ireland, 9 per cent from AXA's general insurance brands and 15 per cent from GRE's general insurance businesses.

Tempus, page 30

New chief for Close Brothers

Sir David Scholey, the former SG Warburg chairman, is to become chairman of Close Brothers, the independent merchant bank. He succeeds Michael Morley, who is retiring early because of ill health.

Yesterday Close reported a fall in pre-tax profits to £33.2 million from £36.75 million for the six months to January 31. Rod Kent, chief executive, attributed the fall in profits to an exceptional first-half last year.

Earnings were 18.35p a share (20.15p), but the interim dividend rises to 5.3p a share (4.8p). The shares fell 32½p to 632½p. City Diary, page 31

McBride departure

McBride, the manufacturer of supermarkets' own-label household products and washing powders, is parting company with Johan Vandeputte, one of its two managing directors, after a difficult half-year in which its sales were hit by the success of Persil tablets. Turnover rose 6 per cent to £248.4 million in the six months to December 31 helped by acquisitions. Pre-tax profits fell to £8.6 million (£14.1 million). Earnings per share fell from 6.9p to 2.9p. The interim dividend is maintained at 2.5p.

Shares dip at Ocean

Ocean Group, the transport and environmental services company, yesterday posted its fifth consecutive year of earnings growth but saw its shares fall 38p to 804p after it said the outlook was challenging and it failed to provide any fresh acquisition news. Underlying pre-tax profit was 13.1 per cent ahead at £83.1 million, for the year ending December 31. Underlying earnings per shares rose to 17.95p (16.60p) and turnover was £1.33 billion (£1.13 billion).

Break talks to rival

Break for the Border, the bar and restaurant operator, and Po Na Na Group, its Ofex-listed rival, are the latest leisure sector minnows to join the consolidation bandwagon. The companies issued a joint statement yesterday confirming that they were "in discussions which may or may not lead to a merger". The enlarged group would have a market capitalisation of about £35 million. A deal is expected within four weeks.

Boost for NTL

NTL, one of Britain's big three cable companies, yesterday completed a £500 million deal that will allow it to supply ITV and Channel 4 via its analogue service until at least 2012. The deal extends NTL's current contracts by ten years. The deal aims to secure transmission of the two channels until the Government switches off analogue signals.

Chesterfield sales

Chesterfield Properties, the company that is liquidating its estate and returning cash to shareholders, began the process yesterday with the sale of 16 sites, raising £100 million.

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Open book: John Le Carré, left, with Tim Hely Hutchinson

Hodder makes big advance

By Raymond Snoddy

A RECORD pre-tax profit of £9.4 million left Tim Hely Hutchinson, chief executive of Hodder Headline, hoping that the stock market would revalue the publishing company.

The 15 per cent growth in profit for the year to December 31 was achieved on a 10 per cent rise in sales to £102.5 million. Hodder ended the year with net cash of £1.7 million, compared with borrowings of £2.5 million a year earlier.

"We can't find publishing companies to buy with sales growth of 10 per cent plus and net cash. They don't exist and yet we are at a discount to the market," Mr Hely Hutchinson said. The shares rose 25p to 260p yesterday.

Hodder lifted sales with bestsellers such as Dickie Bird's autobiography, Tom Clancy's *Net Force* and *Cold Mountain* by Charles Frazier. Sales in the first seven weeks of this year are 11 per cent ahead of last year and 18 titles have so far appeared on national bestseller lists, including John Le Carre's *Single & Single* and Josephine Cox's *The Guilded Cage*.

Earnings rose 13 per cent to 17.9p a share. A 5.55p final dividend lifts the total to 8p from 7.2p last time.

£100m mutuality boost

By Caroline Merrell

YORKSHIRE Building Society is to spend £100 million this year on demonstrating the benefits of mutuality to its members through enhanced savings rates and lower mortgage repayments.

It is also introducing a rule that will make it harder for a pro-conversion resolution to be passed by members: any attempt to convert the society by carpetbaggers will henceforth need 75 per cent support from members rather than just a straight majority.

Yorkshire yesterday announced a 24 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £68.6 million, on the back of net mortgage lending virtually unchanged at £908 million.

Revealing the plans to divert another £100 million to members, David Anderson, Yorkshire's chief executive, said: "We have given out mutual benefits worth £180 million over three years."

It was announced that as of yesterday the society's mortgage rate moved down to 6.6 per cent.

EU approval for Zeneca merger

By Paul Durman

THE European Commission yesterday gave its blessing to the £45 billion merger of Zeneca and Astra after the companies agreed to address concerns over their combined market share in the treatment of hypertension and in anaesthetics.

Zeneca will have to continue financing the commercialisation of the local anaesthetic developed by Chiroscience as a condition of securing EU approval for the merger.

Astra's dominance of the local anaesthetic market in Europe has meant Zeneca has had to agree to hand back rights to the Chiroscience drug, which it acquired only last year. Zeneca has also given an undertaking to appoint an independent distributor for Tenormin, its beta-blocker heart drug, in Sweden and Norway.

Zeneca said the undertaking needed to secure clearance would not have a material impact on its business. The merger still needs the backing of Astra's shareholders and American competition authorities.

Chiroscience needs to find a new marketing partner for the anaesthetic it calls Chirocaine. With Zeneca's support, John Padfield, Chiroscience's chief executive, still hopes the drug can be launched later this year.

Zeneca has agreed to hold on to its 3 per cent stake in Chiroscience for an undisclosed period beyond June, the end of the previously agreed lock-up period. Chiroscience shares rose 8½p to 234p.

Pearson pushes ahead with German paper

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

PEARSON, the media and information group that owns the *Financial Times*, announced yesterday that it is pushing ahead with the £60 million launch of a new business daily in Germany in a joint venture with Gruner + Jahr.

Neither the title nor the launch date of the paper are being announced at the moment but the new daily will be printed on FT-style pink paper and will aim to increase the business newspaper market in Germany.

Both Pearson and Gruner + Jahr, one of Germany's largest magazine and newspaper publishers, are each expected to invest £30 million in the venture over the next three years. The aim is to reach an operational breakeven point by then.

Stephen Hill, chief executive of Pearson's FT Group and chairman of the new venture, said: "We can build a profitable and successful German language business newspaper in what is the world's third-largest economy."

The paper will be edited by Andrew Gowers, until recently deputy editor of the *FT* and a German speaker. Although the new paper will carry some content from the *Financial Times*, it will be written, designed and published specifically for the German market. An associated website will also be launched.

The FT Group has already had success in business publishing in Europe through acquisition. The main opposition in Germany will be *Handelsblatt*, the country's established business daily.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

House price decline stirs downturn fear

HOUSE prices fell for the third time in four months, stoking fears of a downturn in the housing market. The Halifax monthly survey estimates house prices fell by 0.5 per cent in February, bringing the annual rate of house price inflation down to 3.6 per cent compared with 4.4 per cent in January. The sharp decline surprised the lender. Halifax gave warning that any further removal of mortgage interest tax relief or an increase in stamp duty in next week's Budget would harm consumer confidence even further.

Martin Ellis, economist at the Halifax, said: "It's a sharper downturn than we expected. But we think it is a temporary setback." The Halifax is still predicting the annual rate of house price inflation will be 4 per cent in the final quarter of 1999. The average price paid for a house was £73,004 last month compared with £73,406 in January.

Redrow sales ahead

REDROW, the housebuilder, underpinned the recent rally in its share price yesterday by saying that it is selling 4 to 5 per cent more homes in 1999 than in 1998. Redrow shares have bounced back from 125p in September, to 173p yesterday. Steve Morgan, chairman, said demand for houses should continue to be stable. Redrow announced a 13 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits to £26.1 million. Sales were up 8 per cent at £161.1 million. Earnings per share were 8.6p (7.3p). A dividend of 1.5p (1.35p) will be paid.

Computerland tumbles

COMPUTERLAND felt the wrath of London's sensitive IT sector yesterday after a mild profits warning sent its shares down 37 per cent. Graham Gilbert, its founder and managing director, said orders for desktop computers were running about £2 million below the £15 million target for the half year. This comes two months after he told his sales staff to chase more profitable long-term service contracts instead of low-margin computer sales. The shares closed 59½p cheaper at 100½p against a high last July of 360p.

Finelist lifts sales

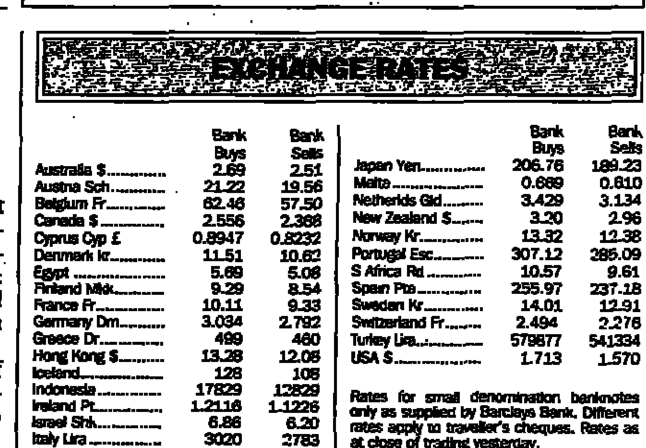
AN INCREASED focus on organic growth and a series of contracts with companies such as BT lifted interim sales at Finelist, Britain's largest car parts distributor, 39 per cent to £243.7 million. Pre-tax profit, however, for the six months to December 31, fell to £13.9 million from £14.4 million. Chris Swan, chairman, said: "The second half provides us with the chance to increase our hold on the UK market." The proposed interim dividend is up 3.7 per cent to 2.8p.

Aggreko powers ahead

AGGREKO, the power equipment hire group, promised to continue with its ambitious expansion plans, especially in the US, after beating analysts' forecasts for 1998 with pre-tax profits up 18.4 per cent to £39.3 million in the year to December 31. Turnover at the company, which was spun out of Christian Salvesen in 1997, rose to £178.9 million (£163.3 million) while the total dividend rose 9.3 per to 4.12p (3.77p).

Morse signals intent

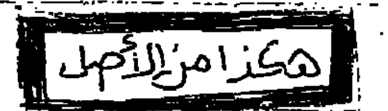
MORSE GROUP, the computer distributor and services group, said it could be valued at as much as £367 million when it comes to the stock market at the end of the month. Morse said yesterday that its shares are to be priced in a range of 250p to 300p. At the middle of the range, the company will raise about £55 million to fund a capital reorganisation and pay off debt and to invest in overseas operations.



EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.69	2.51
Austria Sch	21.22	19.56
Belgium Fr	62.46	57.50
Canada $	2.556	2.388
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8947	0.8232
Denmark Kr	11.51	10.62
Egypt	5.69	5.08
Finland Mkk	9.29	8.54
France Fr	10.11	9.33
Germany Dm	3.034	2.792
Greece Dr	499	460
Hong Kong $	13.28	12.08
Iceland	128	108
Indonesia	17829	12829
Ireland Pt	1.2116	1.1226
Israel Shk	6.86	6.20
Italy Lira	3020	2783
Japan Yen	206.76	189.23
Malta	0.669	0.610
Netherlds Gld	3.429	3.134
New Zealand $	3.20	2.96
Norway Kr	13.32	12.38
Portugal Esc	307.12	285.09
S Africa Rd	10.57	9.61
Spain Pta	255.97	237.18
Sweden Kr	14.01	12.91
Switzerland Fr	2.494	2.276
Turkey Lira	579877	541334
USA $	1.713	1.570

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Sir Victor takes a Birching

COMMENTARY

by our City Editor

Sir Victor Blank's term as a newspaper proprietor looks likely to be short lived. The friendly merger talks the Mirror Group chairman had been having with Trinity have turned distinctly frosty. Instead of the amicable coming together which would have seen Sir Victor emerge as chairman of the enlarged group, the bid that has now been slapped on the table indicates that the services of the ingenue press baron would no longer be required. We are talking hostile here.

Perhaps this should not be surprising. It would have taken a degree of magnanimity for the Trinity chairman, Peter Birch, to have ceded the role to Sir Victor. After all, the Mirror Group chairman, in his role as deputy chairman of GUS, recently deprived Mr Birch of a future as chairman of Argos. Had GUS not succeeded in its hard-fought takeover of the catalogue retailer, Mr Birch would now be chairman. Instead, he has had to suffer the prolonged accusations from GUS chairman Lord Wolfson that, as a member of the Argos board at the time, Mr Birch did not adhere to the highest of City standards. While the Takeover Panel has largely dismissed the GUS carping, it can have done little to make Mr Birch feel well-disposed towards the Wolfson team.

He has easily replaced the lost Argos job with the chairmanship of Britain's biggest property company, Land Securities, but that is no reason why Mr Birch should feel inclined to hand over his role as a media magnate.

Orchestrating genuine mergers requires a degree of altruism which does not always come easily. When Peter Birch was chief executive of the Abbey National, doing a *remarkable* job of transforming the building society, National Westminster suggested that together their organisations could make music. Despite the clear potential, the discussions were not prolonged.

Those synergies undoubtedly exist in putting Trinity and Mirror together to create the country's largest media group. The sheer scale means that the deal must now be put on ice while the MMC scrutinises the pairing. That will take many months, although any analyst could explain that the only problem areas are Scotland and Northern Ireland. If Trinity and Mirror had already agreed a friendly merger, they could already be presenting the MMC with the solution to those minor difficulties. Instead, there will be months of uncertainty, merely delaying the start of the real auction as RIM and Trinity fight over the prize.

In the meantime, Sir Victor Blank has to try to run Mirror as if it has a long-term independent future. That means saying goodbye to News Bunny and topless darts: the buyers are already lining up for Live TV.

Sir Victor knows his task is to win the best price for Mirror. That is certainly closer to 230p than Trinity's sighting shot. But, given that the rival RIM is offering cash and major shareholders PDFM have indicated their preference for some paper, a touch of friendliness, coupled with a little more generosity, might have given Trinity a winning edge.

Long-term this is not the answer

The insurance industry had hoped that the Royal Commission into long-term care was about to deliver a bonanza. The insurers' own efforts to sell policies that will pay out for nursing home fees have proved pitifully ineffective: this looks suspiciously like one area of financial services where misselling has not occurred. Yet demographics and the country's ability to meet the cost of an increasingly aged population pointed to a growing need for just this sort of insurance policy.

The Royal Commission does not think so. While a couple of its members voiced concern about the costs that the commission's proposals might be laying in store for future generations, the majority have been more concerned to ensure equity. This is fine in principle. It is clearly wrong that the prudent individual should be penalised for having amassed capital that can be used to fund nursing care in old age while the prodigal will be provided with the same level of care. But the bills have to be taken into account, and the bills will undoubtedly rise.

The Government now has to decide whether to act on the commission's report or put it on a shelf and concentrate on more palatable issues. It should do neither. The failing in the exercise was to try to isolate long-term care from the whole process of growing old. The subject needs to be viewed within the context of the whole pensions debate which the Government once seemed so keen to initiate but which has degenerated into the sort of conversation in which no one listens to the others.

There is huge confusion now about the Government's plans on pensions. This is not just among those who should be paying for them but also among those who should be providing them. Instead of simplifying the system, the proposals for stakeholder pensions have been added as an extra tier on a structure already threatening to topple.

Yet, as the average age extends and retirement ages head in the opposite direction, the importance of ensuring that individuals make adequate provision for old age has never been greater. It should not be impossible for that provision to take account of the prospect that, at some stage during that prolonged retirement, they may need to pay for nursing care. The failure of insurers to sell their long-term care policies owes as much to the reluctance of consumers to contemplate needing such treatment as it does to the expense.

Truly radical thinking could come up with a package which ensured that savers looked to a future which was realistic rather than rosy.

Blair's euro effect lasts just six days

Recession, what recession? Japan aside, the other three main currency blocs are suddenly all rethinking their drive of cutting interest rates to keep Eastern infections at bay.

In America, wage and activity indicators are buoyant. The Federal Reserve's next move could be upwards, some analysts now speculate, as Alan Greenspan seeks to continue his virtuoso performance of keeping economic growth on the tightrope between inflation and recession.

On the Continent, Germany may howl with exaggerated pain like a footballer appealing for a penalty. But referee Wim Duisenberg and his assistants at the European Central Bank say that the rest of euroland does not need a cut. Growth is healthy from Maastricht to Madrid and from Milan to Dublin, so Germany will have to do without.

In Britain, where growth is still weakest and rates highest, job vacancies, new house reservations and even export orders are perking up. So the headlong cuts in base rates since November may well pause to let the world absorb Gordon Brown's Budget.

This is not convergence, but there is a short-term outbreak of policy coincidence. Why, then, has it caused sterling to rise against the dollar and therefore also against the euro?

Though dull, the UK economy is under more certain control than either of the other two. Denis Healey, New Europe's old bruiser, argues that the euro might not exist in five years time. Even the euro's biggest fan could not say that about sterling.

Fly more flags

THIRTY years to the day that Concorde had its first test flight. 13 of the measly 14 aircraft bought by the flag carriers of Britain and France are still profitably whisking financiers and celebrities across the Atlantic at speeds of which modern aircraft can only dream. The Anglo-French operation has long been superseded by Airbus. Flag carriers of the shareholding countries will still be expected to back the planned A3XX super jumbo with orders to get it off the ground. Along with Air France, presumably Virgin Airways is already preparing to be a launch operator.

Burmah to repay £280m to investors

By Carl Mortished, International Business Editor

BURMAH CASTROL, the lubricants and chemicals group, surprised the market yesterday with plans for a £280 million capital repayment. The promised payout of 131p per share by way of a capital reconstruction boosted Burmah's flagging share price by 5 per cent to 859p.

The chemicals company, which owns the Castrol GTX motor oil brand, has been suffering from weak demand worldwide, in particular from economies in the Far East, such as Thailand, where Castrol had particular success in gaining market share. Asia Pacific accounts for a third of Burmah's business and its shares have almost halved in value from a peak of £13 last June.

Tim Stevenson, Burmah's chief executive, said yesterday that he was more optimistic than a year ago with trading conditions in Asia Pacific showing some signs of improvement.

Burmah yesterday reported flat pre-tax profits of £246 million, after excluding currency losses. Losses from currency fluctuations reduced operating profit by £25 million last year, reducing reported pre-tax profit by 7 per cent.

Burmah is returning capital by way of a share split into ordinary shares and capital shares. Subject to Court approval, the latter will be cancelled by way of a cash payment or issue of loan notes. As a result, the ordinary shares in issue will be reduced by 16.7 per cent, boosting the company's earnings per share.

Mr Stevenson promised yesterday that Burmah would continue to restructure and indicated that acquisitions and disposals would focus the business further. A £110 million three-year reorganisation programme is under way and is expected to generate savings of £30 million per year by the end of the period.

Castrol's profit saw a decline from £211 million to £187 million after the currency hit. However, the company said it had gained market share despite intense competition and the market declines in the Far East. Chemicals profits were down £1 million to £75 million during the year.

Gucci to confront LVMH

By Fraser Nelson

GUCCI has called a showdown with rival LVMH on March 23, when it will hold a vote on whether it should accept a board director nominated by Bernard Arnault, the LVMH chairman.

Domenico De Sole, chief executive of Gucci, is urging shareholders to reject M Arnault's nominee as "the eyes and ears" of the rival fashion houses in the *LVMH* stable.

Although M Arnault had bought 34.4 per cent of the shares, Gucci has created an equal amount of shares that will be controlled by a trust — neutralising any sway he may have in the voting.

It is expected that Umberto Guida, M Arnault's nominated director, will be rejected unless LVMH promises not to buy any more Gucci shares and gives assurances that Signor Guida will leave the room when its business secrets are discussed.LVMH is still trying to sue Gucci for issuing the new shares.

Aegis aims for top spot in US

By Raymond Snoddy

AEGIS, the advertising and marketing group, has set itself the target of being the number one operator in its field in the US within five years.

Crispin Davis, chief executive, said that Aegis, which yesterday announced a 17 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £51.1 million for the year to December, plans to expand in the US in areas such as the Internet, research, direct response marketing and sponsorship.

The company said it has as much as £100 million to spend on acquisitions. "The US represents 40 per cent of the world advertising market. We have made a very encouraging start there and the upside is enormous," Mr Davis said.

In January Aegiswon a $280 million (£170 million) contract from Pfizer, its biggest yet, and now hopes to topple the leaders of the fragmented US market, Y&R and McCann Erickson.

The full-year dividend rises 21 per cent to 0.85p.

Shield improves its offer for Axis

SHIELD DIAGNOSTICS has been forced to improve its merger offer for Axis Biochemicals by 25 per cent to secure the backing of the Norwegian company's largest shareholders (Paul Durman writes).

Tharald Brovig, an influential Norwegian investor, and *Mosvold-Farsund*, a venture capital firm, agreed to back the merger only after David Evans, Shield's managing director, offered to sweeten the terms. The £180 million deal is intended to create a world leader in the field of innovative heart disease tests. Shield will now have to offer 1.25 new shares for every Axis share.

Embarrassingly, the original deal was strongly backed by the Axis management headed by Svein Lien, who is to become *joint managing director* of the merged company. Mr Lien said the deal had to be announced in January before it was "exactly clear ... what our shareholders [were] willing to accept".

STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Investors run for cover over US rate worries

WHILE interest rates this side of the Atlantic may yet still be coming down, in the US there is a real danger that the next move will be up.

Stronger than expected US economic data and evidence of a slowdown in the computer industry have raised fears about a tightening of fiscal policy by the Federal Reserve.

This sent investors scurrying for cover in London where questions were again being asked about the high level of the market in the face of further falls in corporate profitability among blue chips.

As trading drew to a close in the Square Mile, the Dow Jones industrial average was nursing a fall of more than 80 points. The FTSE 100 index did manage to close above its low point of the day, but was still down 114.2 at 6,060.9 by the close. Trading conditions proved thinner than of late with 916 million shares registered. By contrast, the FTSE 250 index rose 10.1 to 5,258.4.

Marks & Spencer retreated 8½p to 411¼p as WestLB Panmure, the broker, told clients to "sell". It values the shares at 300p. Several directors unloaded stock yesterday. Christopher Littmoden has sold 41,079 at 416p reducing his holding to 9,369 shares, while Paul Smith has sold 16,292 shares at 414p and now holds 2,000 shares.

The start of unofficial trading in **South African Breweries** saw the issue lose much of its sparkle after a placing at the 428p level. The price touched 460p before slipping to close 19p better at 447p in thin trading that saw less than a million shares change hands.

First Choice raced up 28p to 183½p after confirming reports in *The Times* last week, that it has received bid approaches. At these levels, the package tour operator is capitalised at £617 million. The tour operators have been undergoing a period of consolidation. Airtours, which is seen as a potential suitor for First Choice, rose 18½p to 495p and **Thomson Travel** 11½p to 180½p in sympathy.

Severn Trent was wanted with a rise of 8p to 896p after HSBC Securities, the broker, raised its recommendation for the shares from "add" to "buy". A broker's recommendation enabled **RMC Group** to resist the downward pull with a rise of 29½p to 709p. JP Morgan, the US investment bank, has been telling clients that the shares are undervalued and should be bought.



Nice wok if you can get it: Ian Blackburn, chief executive, saw shares of Perkins Foods edge ½p higher to 112½p

A revival of speculative buying hoisted **SIG Group** 7½p to 175½p. Followers of the stock claim CRH, the Irish building materials group, may be looking to bid for SIG.

Elsewhere in the building materials industry, **Hanson** hardened 5½p to 515½p as Salomon Smith Barney, the US securities house, raised its target for the shares from 520p to 570p.

ARM Holdings ran into profit taking ending the session 50p lower at £23.42½. Douglas Dunn, a director, has bought 2,400 shares for £19.25. He will be hoping the price can maintain its recent momentum that has seen it come up from the 750p level since May. Last year ARM raised profits from £3.67 million to £5 million and enjoys a rating of about 175 times earnings.

Linx Printing Technologies shaded 1p to 167½p after the sale of shares by a number of directors. Hillary Wienberg has sold 125,000 at 172p and now owns 688,742. Michael Keeling 100,000 at 172p leaving him with 786,908, while Paul Davis has disposed of 50,000 at 172p reducing his holding to 316,250.

Burtonwood Brewery held steady at 153½p with Richard Gilchrist, a director, picking up 7,806 shares at 155p. He now owns 1.89 million shares.

Euromoney Publications slipped 12½p to £15.62½. Richard Jell, a director, has bought 5,000 shares paying £13.30.

SFI Group advanced 5p to 175½p in the belief that its merger with **Regent Inns**, all-square at 180½p, will succeed. Word is **Bass**, down 14p to 852p, was pondering a bid of its own, but has pulled out.

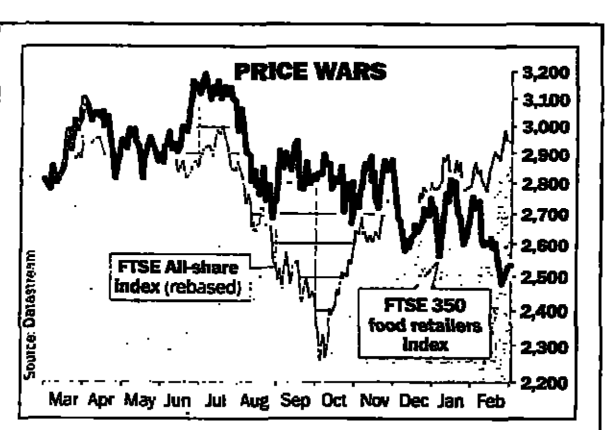
Perkins Foods edged ½p higher to 112½p after wading in with final results showing pre-tax profits almost doubled at £55.1 million. The company said trading in the first few weeks of the current year was in line with expectations.

AIM-listed **Petra Diamonds** was briefly suspended at 60p. The group, as lead member of the Nabera Mining consortium, has been awarded the management contract for the South African government-owned Alexkor diamond mining business.

Alliance Resources was also suspended at 6p due to the delay in publication of its interim results following the acquisition of Difco in November. They are now due to be published on March 12.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** Stronger than expected consumer credit numbers left bonds nursing falls and may have limited the scope for another cut in interest rates when the Monetary Policy Committee meets this week. In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt finished 81p down at £116.14, while among conventional issues Treasury 9 per cent 2008 lost 91p at £132.69.

□ **NEW YORK:** US shares drifted lower on the back of concern about interest rates and weakness in the technology sector. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 13.86 points to 9,292.72.



The latest twist in the food price war has succeeded in unnerving investors. Many of them now take the view that the situation can only get worse.

This time Asda, unchanged at 155½p, has embarked on a cost-cutting programme which brokers say will bring pain to its rivals. It follows hard on the heels of a similar move last week by rival Tesco, down 8½p at 168½p, which cut the price of 250 product lines.

Brokers have had plenty to say on the subject. Credit Lyonnais has cut J Sainsbury, 1p better at 361½p, from "buy" to "add" and, instead, has turned its attention to rival Somerfield, up 5¼p at 380p, which it rates a "buy".

WestLB Panmure, the broker, has cut its rating for Safeway, down 6p at 262¼p, and Tesco from "buy" to "hold".

Credit Suisse First Boston, the broker, has gone one step further and told clients to switch out of the food retailers altogether and into general retailers.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 9292.72 (−13.86)
S&P Composite 1229.79 (−8.54)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 14221.75 (−145.79)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 10030.46 (+161.97)

Amsterdam:
AEX Index 527.31 (−8.81)

Sydney:
AO 2911.1 (+31.2)

Frankfurt:
DAX 4784.31 (−127.50)

Singapore:
Straits 1422.85 (+10.94)

Brussels:
BEL20 3300.03 (−61.85)

Paris:
CAC-40 4032.05 (−60.69)

Zurich:
SKA Gen 1342.10 (−19.10)

London:

FT 30	3704.3 (−56.0)
FTSE 100	6060.9 (−114.2)
FTSE 250	5258.4 (+10.1)
FTSE 350	2878.6 (−45.0)
FTSE Eurotop 100	2770.66 (−33.79)
FTSE All-Share	2784.06 (−41.33)
FTSE Non Financials	2836.53 (−38.77)
FTSE Fixed Interest	154.45 (−0.48)
FTSE Govt Secs	112.90 (−0.74)
Bargains	81385
SEAQ Volume	916.0m
US$	1.6075 (+0.0062)
Euro	0.8801 (−0.0053)
£:SDR	1.1745
Exchange Index	101.6 (−0.3)

Bank of England official close (4pm)
RPI 163.4 Jan (2.4%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX 161.8 Jan (2.6%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Acorn Income Fund	101½	...
Close Bros Dev VCT	100	...
Enhanced Zero Trust	100¼	...
Gander Properties	7¼	...
Jupiter En Zero Dv Pf	107½	− ½
Jupiter Enhanced Inc	98½	+ ¼
Luminar Warrants	360	+ 37½
NBA Quantum	109½	...
South African Breweries	447	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Brancote n/p (10)	1¼	...
Peptide Therapeutics n/p (78)	21½	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Horace Small	79½	+ 28	+ 54.3
Telspec	115	+ 22½	+ 24.3
Whitecroft	55½	+ 10	+ 21.9
First Choice	180	+ 24½	+ 15.7
Atlantic Telecom	228½	+ 26	+ 12.8
Russell (A)	137½	+ 15	+ 12.2
Euro Sales Fn	318½	+ 33½	+ 11.7
Sherwd Intl	1800	+175	+ 10.7
Hodder H8ne	260	+ 25	+ 10.6
Aggreko	198	+ 15	+ 8.1
Thomson Travel	180½	+ 11½	+ 6.8
Southnews	560	+ 33½	+ 6.3
Ranger	180	+ 10½	+ 6.1
Relyon	392½	+ 22½	+ 6.0
Arcadia Group	221	+ 12½	+ 5.9
Staffware	177½	+ 10	+ 5.9
Burmah Castrl	859	+ 44	+ 5.3
Bodycote	865	+ 42½	+ 5.1
Britt Allcroft	391½	+ 18½	+ 4.9
Ricardo Group	262½	+ 12	+ 4.7
Harmony	286	+ 13	+ 4.7
Swire Pacific	257¼	+ 11¾	+ 4.5

FALLS:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Computerland UK	100½	− 59½	− 37.1
Estates Agency	450	−100	− 18.1
Whatman	710	− 97½	− 12.0
Critchley	310	− 30	− 8.8
JBA Hldgs	122	− 11½	− 8.6
Inter-Alliance	405	− 30	− 6.8
BTP	296½	− 20	− 6.3
Ryl Bk Scot	1150	− 68	− 5.5
Superscape VR	181	− 10	− 5.2
Helical Bar	460	− 25	− 5.1
Air Partner	185	− 10	− 5.1
SA Brewerie	896⅞	− 46⅞	− 4.9
Close Bros	632½	− 32½	− 4.8
BPB	227	− 11½	− 4.8

TEMPUS

A murky brew

THE INVESTMENT argument over South African Breweries is finely balanced. Much depends on the fate of the 27 per cent stake that is owned by Bevcon, a consortium including three greats of Cape industrial life: Liberty Life, Anglo American and Johnnic.

Bevcon is a seller. But the way in which it sells determines the fate of SAB. If the shares are sold in one lot, all out takeover speculation can be generated. However, if the stake is sold on the open market, the supply bulge will depress the share price. Bevcon has already touted the stake around and not found a trade buyer, a fact that immediately poses the rhetorical question that if the trade professionals do not want SAB, why should anyone else?

That is too simplistic an analysis. SAB can have attractions to market investors even if trade buyers overlook it. SAB has a solid market position in South Africa and is exploiting opportunities to sell beer in other developing economies. With the access to funds brought with the London quote SAB ought to find other avenues. It is also set to join the FTSE 100, which means its stock price will be chased up by index trackers.

But with 90 per cent of the South African beer market and its leading Lion and Castle brands, SAB is perhaps too powerful for its own good. Emerging markets consumerism is hardly in rude health either.

Followers of Billiton — that other London quoted South African whose share price graph is printed below — should need no reminding that stock overhang added to its more fundamental trading weaknesses.

Take a toehold in SAB, perhaps. But the company has much left to prove.

Billiton

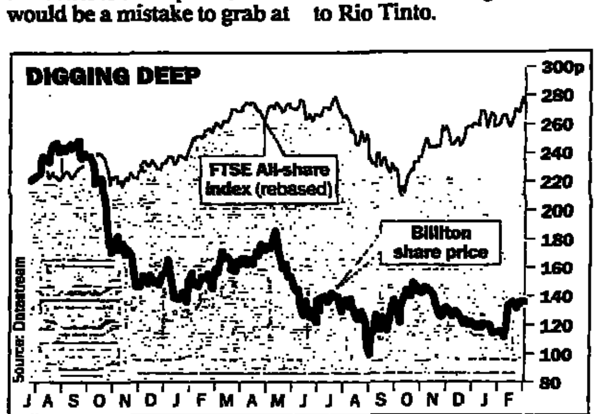
LONDON life has been brutal for Billiton. The company's vulnerability to depressed commodity prices has prevented it being swept along with many FTSE 100 counterparts, leaving it trudging along a less salubrious path.

Yesterday's results, which saw Billiton's interim profit plunging 34 per cent, points to more of the same for the South African-based mining house. Brian Gilbertson, chairman, almost said as much when he revealed that average commodity prices for January and February were below those of the first half and that the outlook remains tough.

Bob Wilson, Rio Tinto chairman, made similar observations last week. But the key difference between the giant mining groups rests with Billiton's big exposure to aluminium. This is where the prognosis is particularly bad, especially because stockpiles of the metal are rising.

The price of aluminium, and that of most other metals, is not expected to record any significant recovery until next year. Some gains in metal prices and related equity prices may come as change for the better is anticipated, but it would be a mistake to grab at too many straws.

At least one leading Billiton shareholder is expected to sell into any share price strength. The temptation to follow suit is high. If you want returns from Billiton you must be prepared to wait and, while that is true of any stock in the sector, if you have a taste for mining risk, stick to Rio Tinto.



F&C

IN THE past three years, shares in the Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust, the oldest collective investment vehicle with 100,000 private investors on its register, have risen by just 16.2 per cent. That is appalling given that the total return from the FTSE All-share has been nigh on 70 per cent across the same period.

But salt is rubbed into the wounds because while the shares are up 16 per cent the net asset value of the trust has grown by 41.8 per cent. Comparison with the All-share leaves F&C's investment management skills open to question. But the widening asset value discrepancy must also make investors wonder whether the investment trust, as an investment vehicle, is worth persevering with.

Investors who feel robbed should be patient, however. A renewed focus on investment performance and on marketing to new investors may help F&C performance. The plan to buy back up to 15 per cent of its shares ought to narrow the discount too. There is well-placed cynicism about the effectiveness of buybacks, but with about 120 investment trusts planning to rein in stock supply through buybacks, billions of pounds worth of unwanted paper will be taken out of the system.

The trust must narrow the alarming 17 per cent NAV discount or it will be forced, *à la* Electra, to dissolve itself. This is no time to sell.

Sun Life

FIERCE competition, rising claims and pressure on premium rates makes it difficult for any insurer to write profitable general insurance business these days. Nerves are further stretched with underwriting losses increasing alarmingly thanks to weather claims.

Economies of scale help, of course, and this was the rationale behind Sun Life and Provincial's bid for Guardian Royal Exchange earlier this month. Assuming the GRE deal gets nodded through SL&P will become the third-largest insurer in Britain. UK life business will account for 61 per cent of premiums in the enlarged group, and general insurance will account for 24 per cent.

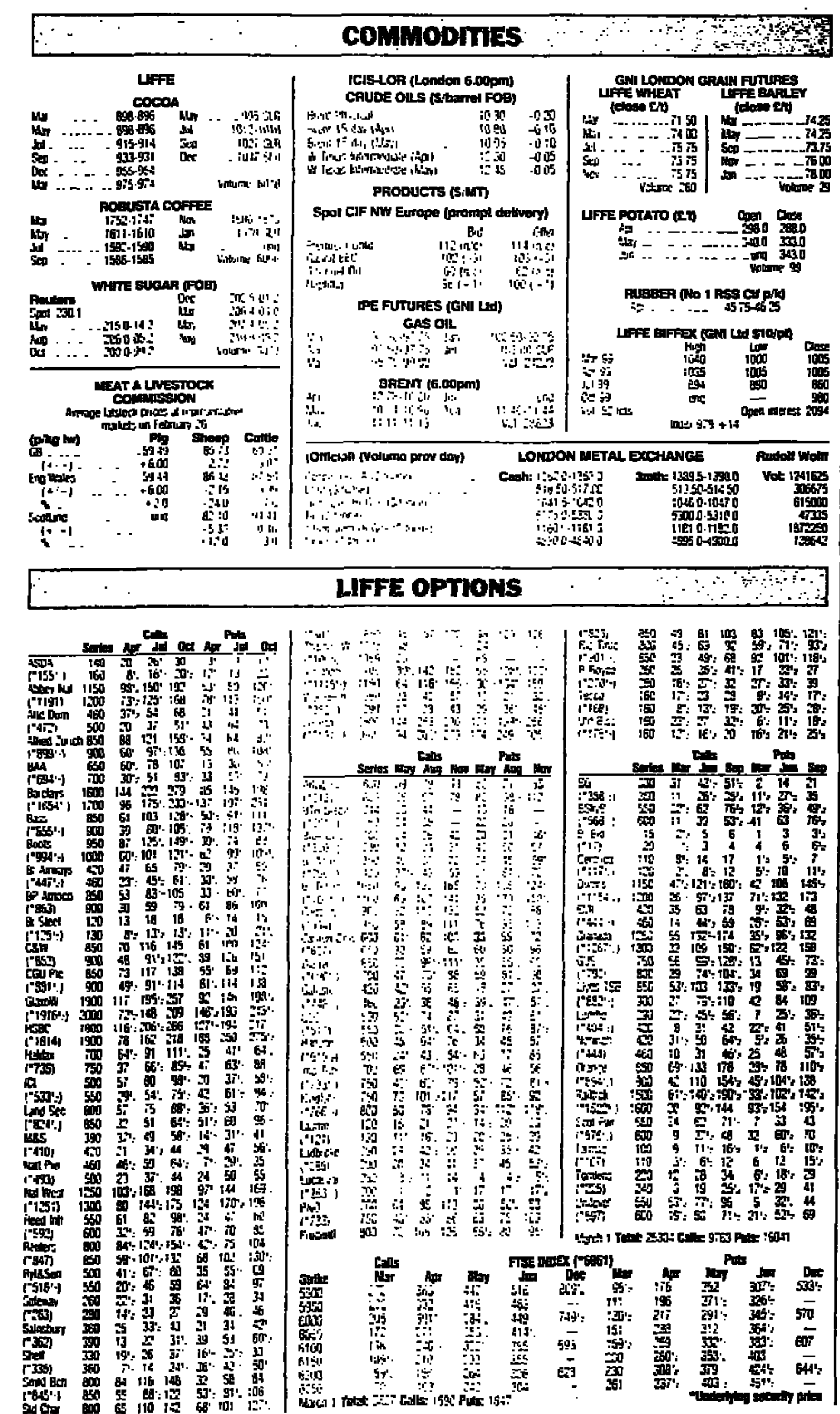
The pre-GRE results from SL&P, out yesterday, show it is already strengthening itself and as long as premium rates stay at least flat for the next two years, acquiring GRE's general insurance business will enhance earnings from year one.

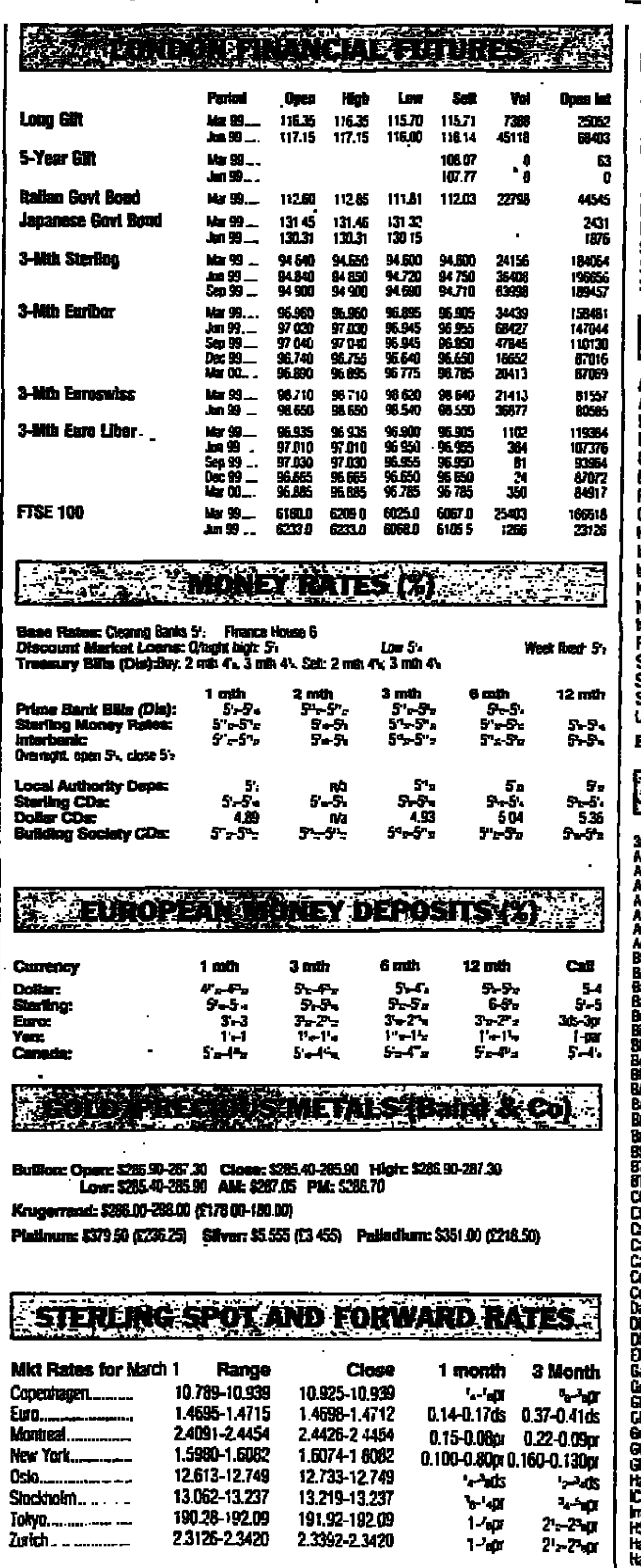
Doubts persist about the wisdom of buying into a company that has a majority shareholder, but there is every reason to be confident that SL&P will grow as well as any in the sector. Accumulate.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

COMMODITIES

LIFFE OPTIONS





LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	Mar 99	116.35	116.35	115.70	115.71	7388	25052
	Jun 99	117.15	117.15	116.00	116.14	45118	68403
5-Year Gilt	Mar 99				108.07	0	63
	Jun 99				107.77	0	0
Italian Govt Bond	Mar 99	112.60	112.85	111.81	112.03	22798	44545
Japanese Govt Bond	Mar 99	131.45	131.46	131.32			2431
	Jun 99	130.31	130.31	130.15			1876
3-Mth Sterling	Mar 99	94.640	94.650	94.600	94.600	24156	184064
	Jun 99	94.840	94.850	94.720	94.750	36408	196656
	Sep 99	94.900	94.900	94.690	94.710	63998	189457
3-Mth Euribor	Mar 99	96.960	96.960	96.895	96.905	34439	158481
	Jun 99	97.030	97.030	96.945	96.955	68427	147044
	Sep 99	97.040	97.040	96.945	96.950	47845	110130
	Dec 99	96.740	96.755	96.640	96.650	16652	87016
	Mar 00	96.890	96.895	96.775	96.785	20413	87069
3-Mth Euroswiss	Mar 99	98.710	98.710	98.620	98.640	21413	81557
	Jun 99	98.650	98.650	98.540	98.550	36877	80585
3-Mth Euro Libor	Mar 99	96.935	96.935	96.900	96.905	1102	119384
	Jun 99	97.010	97.010	96.950	96.955	384	107376
	Sep 99	97.030	97.030	96.955	96.950	81	93964
	Dec 99	96.665	96.665	96.650	96.650	24	87072
	Mar 00	96.885	96.885	96.785	96.785	350	84917
FTSE 100	Mar 99	6180.0	6209.0	6025.0	6067.0	25403	166518
	Jun 99	6233.0	6233.0	6068.0	6105.5	1266	23126

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 5½ Finance House 6
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 5½ Low 5¼ Week fixed: 5½
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 4⅞, 3 mth 4¾. Sell: 2 mth 4¾, 3 mth 4¾

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Overnight: open 5¾, close 5½					
Local Authority Deps:	5½	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	4.89	n/a	4.93	5.04	5.36
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4
Sterling:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Euro:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	3ds-3pr
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par
Canada:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

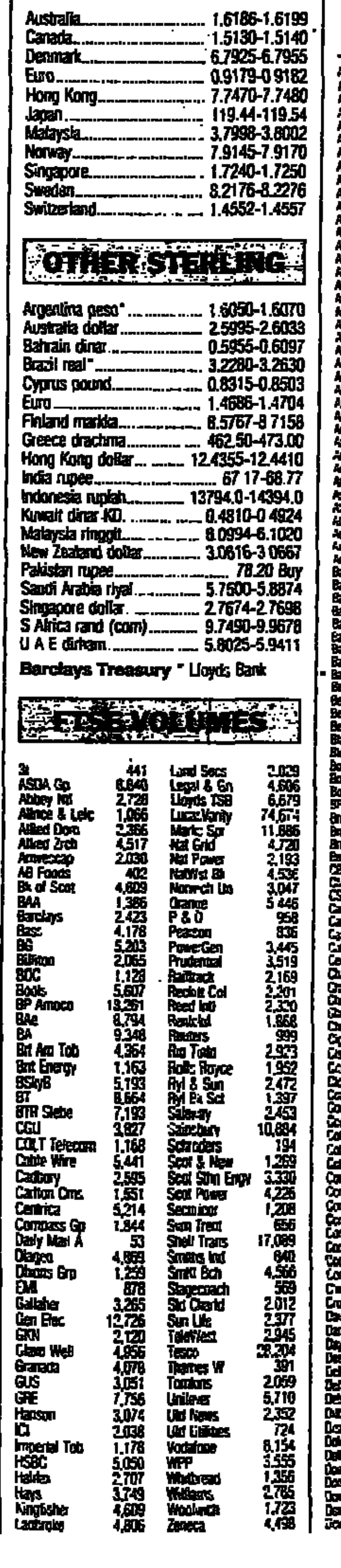
GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open: $286.90-287.30 Close: $285.40-285.90 High: $286.90-287.30 Low: $285.40-285.90 AM: $287.05 PM: $286.70
Krugerrand: $286.00-288.00 (£178.00-180.00)
Platinum: $379.50 (£236.25) Silver: $5.555 (£3.455) Palladium: $351.00 (£218.50)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for March 1	Range	Close	1 month	3 Month
Copenhagen	10.789-10.939	10.925-10.939	[illegible]	[illegible]
Euro	1.4695-1.4715	1.4698-1.4712	0.14-0.17ds	0.37-0.41ds
Montreal	2.4091-2.4454	2.4426-2.4454	0.15-0.08pr	0.22-0.09pr
New York	1.5980-1.6082	1.6074-1.6082	0.100-0.80pr	0.160-0.130pr
Oslo	12.613-12.749	12.733-12.749	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stockholm	13.062-13.237	13.219-13.237	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tokyo	190.28-192.09	191.92-192.09	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zurich	2.3126-2.3420	2.3392-2.3420	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: Extel Premium = pr Discount = ds



DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.6186-1.6199
Canada	1.5130-1.5140
Denmark	6.7925-6.7955
Euro	0.9179-0.9182
Hong Kong	7.7470-7.7480
Japan	119.44-119.54
Malaysia	3.7998-3.8002
Norway	7.9145-7.9170
Singapore	1.7240-1.7250
Sweden	8.2176-8.2276
Switzerland	1.4552-1.4557

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6050-1.6070
Australia dollar	2.5995-2.6033
Bahrain dinar	0.5955-0.6097
Brazil real*	3.2280-3.2630
Cyprus pound	0.8315-0.8503
Euro	1.4686-1.4704
Finland markka	8.5767-8.7158
Greece drachma	462.50-473.00
Hong Kong dollar	12.4355-12.4410
India rupee	67.17-68.77
Indonesia rupiah	13794.0-14394.0
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4810-0.4924
Malaysia ringgit	6.0994-6.1020
New Zealand dollar	3.0616-3.0667
Pakistan rupee	78.20 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.7500-5.8874
Singapore dollar	2.7674-2.7698
S Africa rand (com)	9.7490-9.9678
U A E dirham	5.8025-5.9411

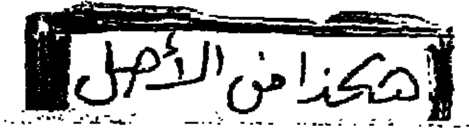
Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	441	Land Secs	2,029
ASDA Gp	6,640	Legal & Gn	4,606
Abbey Ntl	2,728	Lloyds TSB	6,679
Allnce & Leic	1,066	LucasVarity	74,674
Allied Dom	2,366	Marks Spr	11,886
Allied Zurch	4,517	Nat Grid	4,720
Amvescap	2,030	Nat Power	2,193
AB Foods	402	NatWst Bk	4,535
Bk of Scot	4,609	Norwich Un	3,047
BAA	1,386	Orange	5,445
Barclays	2,423	P & O	958
Bass	4,178	Pearson	836
BG	5,203	PowerGen	3,445

WALL STREET

	Mar 1 midday	Feb 26 close
AEP	41¼	41¾
AMP Inc	52	53
AMR Corp	58	55
AT & T	82	82
Abbott Labs	45	46
Adobe Systems	39	40





Time for Blair to face up to the euro's implications

New Europe offers the chance for an honest debate about Britain and the single currency

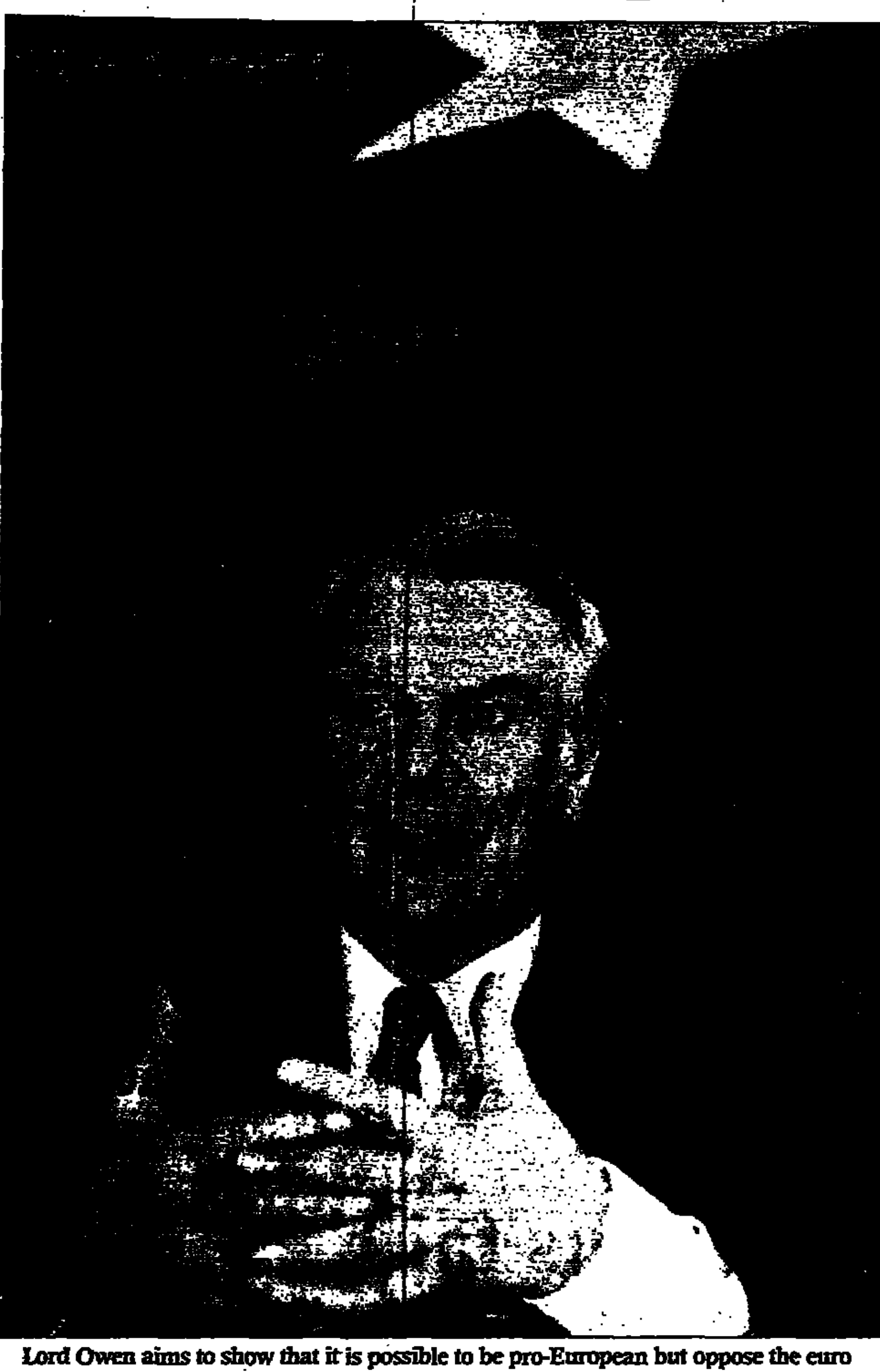
Looking back over the columns that I have written on this page since the new year, I was rather concerned to discover last week that six out of the eight headlines included the word "Europe". I was therefore determined to move on to another subject this week.

But writing for a daily newspaper means responding to the flow of daily events — and yesterday there was an event in London that I could not ignore. This was the launch of a new campaigning and research organisation called New Europe. The purpose of New Europe is to offer a positive, economically coherent and politically open-minded argument for Britain to remain a fully committed member of the European Union, while retaining its monetary and economic independence as a non-member of the eurozone. I naturally welcome the creation of New Europe, since its analysis coincides exactly with the one that I have presented since I joined *The Times* nearly nine years ago. But I must confess to two even more selfish reasons for inflicting on the column's readers the seventh article on Europe in nine weeks.

My first selfish reason is simply that I was involved with Lord Owen and others in hatching the idea of New Europe. I had long been convinced that a group of respected centrist businessmen, economists and other public personalities with impeccably pro-European credentials could be assembled to present a persuasive case against Britain joining the single currency and, just as importantly, to demonstrate that opposition to joining EMU could be based on economic realism and geopolitical rationalism, not on tub-thumping nationalism, imperial nostalgia or right-wing xenophobia.

My second selfish reason for writing about the launch of New Europe is that it gives me an easy chance to respond to the many letters and e-mails that I have received of late, all with the same two demands: declare, once and for all, whether you are for or against Europe; and if you think that Britain should stay in the EU but outside EMU, please explain how a country can continue in this semi-detached state.

I now have an easy answer to both these questions. I can simply direct readers to the ten-page "statement of general principles" published by New Europe. This statement covers precisely the questions posed by so many readers and offers answers as good as any I have seen. It is obtainable either from New Europe's website, www.new-europe.co.uk, or from its physical address: 52 Walnut Tree Walk, London, SE11 6DN, 0171-582 1001. Having said this, let me answer more directly the two questions I posed.



Lord Owen aims to show that it is possible to be pro-European but oppose the euro

Am I for or against Europe? The answer is that I strongly support Britain's involvement not only in the EU and the single market, but also in several other forums of European integration, including the European Court of Human Rights and Nato. In fact, there are several areas in which I would support much closer integration than the Government. For example, I would like to see Britain abandon its border controls as part of the Schengen agreement, to abolish the absurd quarantine laws, to join the European time zone and to stop the tantrums about "getting back our money" in EU budget debates.

I do not believe, however, that all plans for closer European integration are *ipso facto* desirable for their own sake. And I do not accept that all efforts at greater European co-operation should be undertaken within the political structure of the EU. I believe, for example, that the EU lacks the democratic legitimacy and mature political structures to send soldiers into war. What has all this to do with economic and monetary union? Monetary policy, taxation and public spending are, in my view, areas of national sovereignty every bit as important as foreign policy and defence. In these economic areas, just as in foreign policy and defence, the EU lacks the political legitimacy and the practical competence to justify an abandonment of national sovereignty. To say this is not to oppose any pooling of national sovereignty in economic matters under any circumstances.

Just as Nato represents a partial pooling of national military power, so the single market and the EU already represents a substantial pooling of national economic sovereignty. The rational argument of those who oppose EMU is not that they reject any pooling of economic sovereignty — as Tony Blair dishonestly claimed last week. It is simply that ceding control over monetary decisions to the European Central Bank is a bridge much too far, at least under the present constitutional arrangements in Europe. "Under the present constitutional arrangements" may sound like a weasel phrase, designed to allow me to slide out of my opposition to EMU (an event which will be triggered, in the opinion of many of my abusive correspondents, the moment that I receive the relevant directive from Rupert Murdoch). But for me the constitutional position in Europe goes to the heart of the matter.

I believe that EMU will only succeed for the continental countries if it gradually leads to a full-scale political unification: the creation of a United States of Europe, about as closely integrated as the USA. Whether Britain should participate in such a United States of Europe would depend, for me, on two questions. What is the USE's political constitution — is it essentially a democracy or a bureaucracy? And what are Britain's prospects as an independent nation outside the USE?

The first question, about what kind of political Europe will be created as the natural corollary of EMU, cannot begin to be answered or even debated in Britain because all our "pro-European" politicians categorically deny that there is any proposect of creating a USE. If this is true, then Britain should stay out of EMU, because monetary union can only work in the context of much deeper political integration. If, on the other hand, Europe really is moving towards political integration, then that is the fundamental issue that Britain's politicians ought to debate. In that case Britain should surely not join EMU on the basis of the Government's false prospectus that this is a purely economic decision. Either way, whether Mr Blair's pretence that EMU has nothing to do with constitutional issues is mendacious or merely blinkered, joining EMU on the basis of this policy must surely be wrong.

As for the second question — about Britain's ability to survive as an independent economy — I think the answer is even more clear-cut. I am convinced that Britain can prosper as an independent nation, within the EU but outside EMU. In economic policy, we now have a successful arrangement for dividing the responsibility for monetary and fiscal policy between the Treasury and a Bank of England that is operationally independent but politically accountable to the Government. Until and unless this arrangement is found wanting, there is no reason to suppose that Britain, which is the world's fifth-largest economy and now its fourth-largest monetary power, should benefit from ceding control to the European Central Bank.

But what about the broader issue of Britain's relationship with Europe? Won't Britain lose influence in Europe? Won't Europe take its revenge on a semi-detached Britain by stacking the rules of the single market against it or even expelling it from the EU? I think that such fears are entirely unfounded. Not only do the European treaties provide Britain with a good deal of reassurance, but there is a much more powerful reason why Britain will be treated with respect by the rest of Europe.

To trade freely and co-operate with Britain is as much in Europe's interest as it is in ours. Britain is now easily the most important single trading partner of the newly merged euroland. In fact, euroland does as much trade with Britain as it does with America and Japan put together. Furthermore, European companies are much bigger investors in Britain than the Japanese. For euroland to punish Britain for staying out of EMU would be cutting off its nose to spite its face.

I can only imagine one situation in which euroland would even be tempted to consider such a policy of cutting off its nose to spite its face. If the British economy were performing extremely well, while the euroland economy were suffering an economic disaster, Britain's independent success might become a source of embarrassment. So perhaps Britain should join EMU to avoid embarrassing euroland if it does too well. Is that what Tony Blair really believes?

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Airborne Canary leaves ruins of the tower in its wake

Five years on, the Docklands development has become a viable business, writes **Carl Mortished**

As if Dennis Tunnicliffe, chief executive of London Underground, did not have enough on his plate, there is now the tricky question of the rent on his office at Canary Wharf. Back in the recession, London Underground (LUL) took office space at Canary Wharf. It was a gesture of support for the project in which LUL and the Government had both a political and financial stake, building the Jubilee Line extension and lending a hand to a project which had the blessing of no less a person than Margaret Thatcher.

LUL signed a lease at the end of 1993 on a 283,000 sq ft office block at just £12 per square foot, a mere bagatelle of a rent that reflected recession and the insolvency of the landlord. It also spoke eloquently of the fact that no one wanted to work in a windswept and isolated colony of office towers in Docklands.

A lot has changed in five years and LUL will pay the price, not just in cost over-runs on the Jubilee Line but on the rent review on its lease at Canary Wharf. Mr Tunnicliffe will soon have to warn his boss, the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, that the rent on LUL's corporate headquarters could more than double, from £3.4 million to £7.4 million.

LUL is just the beginning: it is payday for the once-improvident Canary. Tenants who struck deals at rents in mid-teens five years ago will be worried to hear that Salomon Smith Barney has agreed a rent in the mid-thirties. Canary Wharf is reaping the rewards of its former dependence on government five years down the road. Government support could not protect the company from ruin but, half a decade later, it has become a viable property business attracting tenants at market rents. The unintended twist in the tale is that the taxpayer is subsidising the profits of a commercial business to the tune of £400 million more than a decade after it was first mooted.

To be fair, Canary Wharf would never have happened without the Enterprise Zone Allowance. When the Canadian Reichmann brothers took over the Canary Wharf project in 1987 from G Ware Travelstead, the American developer, it had been given the thumbs down by the City as well as civil servants in the Department of the Environment who regarded Docklands as beyond the pale.

The Reichmanns had a vision, a development of North American scale in Europe's financial capital, akin to the brothers' world financial centre in New York. They had capital and they courted the people that mattered. Mrs Thatcher, then Prime Minister, was photographed in the cab of a JCB as the contractors broke ground on the site.

Unfortunately, for the Reichmanns, they had less influence over another power broker — the Corporation of the City of London. The City fathers refused to countenance a shift of the financial power base to the left-wing council of Tower Hamlets. So they unleashed a tide of competing office development and the flood not only put the Wharf under water but drowned several developers.

The cost of tenant inducements and slow lettings proved a drain on the Reichmanns' empire, Olympia & York (O&Y), but the financial cataclysm that hit Canary Wharf originated in New York, where holders of O&Y's commercial paper refused to roll over their investment. That triggered a sudden requirement for $400 million (£250 million) which could not be met.

There followed a saga of banks seizing the assets, administration and, eventually, rebirth as Paul Reichmann bought his way back into the development for £800 million in 1995, helped by Prince al-Walid bin Talal of Saudi Arabia, CNA and Franklin Mutual.

Mr Reichmann's determination might look like obsession to those unfamiliar with Docklands. But five years ago, the administrators did the right thing, protecting Canary Wharf from a receivership which would have extinguished the attraction of the asset. Under the Enterprise Zone scheme, developers benefited from 100 per cent capital allowances; the full cost of putting up the building could be offset against the developer's tax bill.

When Mr Reichmann bought back the the development, he picked up a dowry of allowances and tax losses worth hundreds of millions of pounds, to protect the company from the Inland Revenue.

Meanwhile, things are going right at the Wharf. There is a bustle about the place, the footfall that is generated by 4.7 million square feet of fully let offices. CSFB is buying another half million square feet and HSBC is building a tower of one million square feet.

The bigger prize is to the east — in the shadow of the tower of One Canada Square lie deep foundations waiting for steel frames. According to George Iacobescu, chief executive, there are five million square feet of potential offices and shops with planning permits.

This is a new, North American style of property development — "You want a building? How big? How many offices, trading floors, lavatories? When do you need it?"

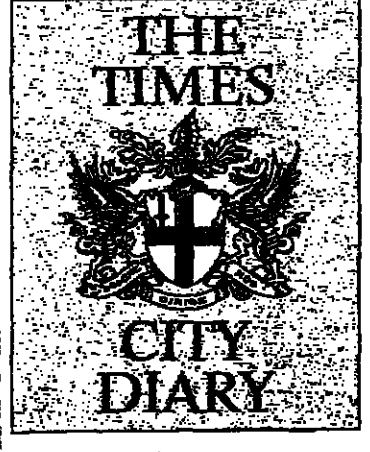
Mr Iacobescu reckons the City cannot compete. "I looked at the design for Plantation House [a City development]. What happens if someone wants 700,000 square feet instead of 500,000 square feet?"

But could it all have happened without the lure of a massive fiscal holiday? Probably not, but that was another time and another Government. Today, the stock market is being offered a £2.6 billion tax-transparent real estate bet on the success of London as a financial centre over the next ten years. It looks plausible; the Canary is definitely airborne.



Canary Wharf has begun to attract tenants at market rents

Nice one Cyril



CYRIL STEIN, the legendary former Ladbroke boss, phones me from his sickbed — a touch of the lurgy, apparently — to deny suggestions that he is poised to cash in his chips at the plush St James's Club, just off Piccadilly.

"There is no truth in it," he booms. "There was a rumour flying around the last few weeks — and we do get approaches, of course, including one very recently — but there are no negotiations."



Stein: happily making money for himself instead of shareholders

When Stein acquired the club from the ill-fated Queens Moat Houses in 1994 for £6 million, he spent £3 million refurbishing it and talked boldly of opening St James's Clubs in cities all over the world (Peter de Savary, its cigar-chomping founding father, once made similar boasts before sailing off into the sunset).

Stein assures me he is still keen on the idea of a chain of St James's Clubs, and claims to be eyeing possible sites in New York. But for the time being he says he is "enjoying making money for myself, rather than for 70,000 shareholders".

So how, I inquire, did the sale rumour start? "It might have been when the managing director of Cliveden came to see me at the club," Stein opines. "But if I was going to do any deal I certainly wouldn't discuss it at the club."

SIR DAVID WHITE, the chairman of Mansfield Brewery, has been kind enough to send me a bottle of the company's Millennium Ale — an attractively packaged, limited-edition brew that is "designed to be drunk on New Year's Eve 1999". A word of caution to any would-be imbibers among you. At 8.5 per cent ABV, any overindulgence is likely to preclude seeing in the new millennium in a waking state.

That isn't

THE dreaded image consultants have been up to their tricks again. SEC Group, the financial services provider, announced yesterday that it is to change its name to i.e. group plc. You may well ask. Sadly, the new identity has nothing to do with the Latin *id est*, but rather stands for "integrity" and "expertise" (qualities one automatically associates with financial advisers).

According to the blurb, the new name enables the group to offer "a unique, seamless and holistic approach to financial advisory services", and is designed to get away from its origins as Securitised Endowment Contracts. I am told that the name i.e. conveys, among other things, the firm's "innovativeness" (sic). The only consolation is that the name change is subject to shareholder approval. If investors have any sense, they will vote against it.

Sad note

I WAS sorry to hear that ill-health has forced Michael Morley to retire early as chairman of Close Brothers. Morley, who is a gifted pianist, is one of those rare men who have worked in both industry and finance.

Although he was involved with Close Brothers from its earliest days, including a spell under the ownership of Consolidated Goldfields, he left banking in the 1980s and founded a specialist engineer called Paragon, which was eventually bought out by Portals, the banknote maker. He finally resurfaced for a second spell as chairman of Close Brothers in 1995.

Rod Kent, Close's managing director, says: "He's one of the very few merchant bankers who have also been merchants. He's also the only man I know who's been chairman of the same bank twice."

In flames

ON FRIDAY night, a colleague popped into Nam Long, the Knightsbridge cocktail bar beloved of James Archer and his fellow Flaming Ferraris. Sadly, Lord Archer's son and his trader pals from CSFB were nowhere to be seen. Although there was still demand for the now infamous cocktail from which the band drew their name — a £13 mix of spirits that is set alight and drunk through a straw — the Ferraris are understood to have switched to less potent drinks before their alleged trading misdeeds came to light. A portent of things to come?

IN ITS third-quarter report, Ionica says it "does not believe that its operations will be materially affected by Year 2000 compliance matters". Quite so. The telephone company's network was closed down at the weekend following its ignominious collapse into administration.

DOMINIC WALSH



"I'm all ready for the Canary Wharf float"

Billiton guarded on bleak outlook

By Paul Armstrong

BILLITON has joined the growing band of international mineral mining companies to give warning that market conditions for natural resources could get worse before they get better.

Brian Gilbertson, chairman, said yesterday that the possibility of further falls in commodity prices remained, though he believed they were "pretty close" to the bottom of the cycle.

"I don't want to sound overly bullish and say things will turn around because it is still pretty tough," Mr Gilbertson said.

"We are keeping the hatches down and we are running the business on the basis that it will be difficult."

He was speaking after the South African-based mining group and FTSE 100 company, unveiled a 34 per cent plunge in attributable profit to $165 million (£103 million) for the six months to December 31.

The result, which was at the top end of market expectations, would have been significantly worse had it not been for a cut in aluminium production costs and exchange rate gains.

Billiton's themes were very similar to those expressed last week by its industry counterpart Rio Tinto, which also gave warning of a bleak outlook.

Rio restricted the fall in its pre-tax profit to 6 per cent in 1998 but said shareholders should not expect such a favourable outcome this year. The company said that production levels and sales volumes were either maintained or increased slightly across all its operations.

Billiton ploughed $1.5 billion into acquisitions in the period, including a buyout of the minority shareholders in the Australian-based nickel miner QNI.

It said this left it with a war chest of almost $2 billion, which comprised $685 million cash and the company's remaining $1.26 billion debt facility.

But analysts said it was unlikely Billiton could fund a significant purchase, despite its conservative gearing level of 22 per cent.

They also gave warning that it would almost certainly fail to find any further substantial cost reductions.

"There are not a lot of areas for fat to come out," one analyst said. "It is a matter of sitting tight until the market turns."

Billiton shares, which are quoted on the London and Johannesburg stock exchanges, fell from a high of 186½p last May to a low of 98½p in August.

The interim dividend is to remain steady at 3.5 cents. The stock closed 1p lower yesterday at 134½p.

The portion of Billiton shares held on the London register has jumped to 51 per cent from 37 per cent at June 30 last year.

Tempus, page 30



John Simpson, left, with board members John Fleming, Terence Whitmore and David Donnelly

Mayflower set for US

MAYFLOWER, the bus and car bodies group, is expected to announce the fine detail of a link with Mercedes Benz in America this month (Adam Jones writes).

Mayflower, whose chief executive is John Simpson, said it is close to announcing its strategy for the US, where it wants to use its low-floor buses to break into a market where it has a negligible presence.

Last September, when it was engaged in a bid battle for Dennis, the bus maker it now owns, Mayflower announced that it had an understanding with Daimler-Benz, the Mercedes holding company, for future co-operation.

Mayflower also said that it will not be unduly affected if Rover shuts down the factory at Longbridge in Birmingham. Mayflower makes bodies at Coventry for the Rover MGF car that is assembled at Longbridge. However, the MGF would almost certainly be moved to another Rover plant if Longbridge shut and Mayflower's supply contract would continue.

Mayflower announced full-year profits of £42.6 million before tax and goodwill, up 28 per cent on 1997. Earnings per share fell from 8.6p to 4.7p. Sales were up 26 per cent at £495.2 million. Capital cuts saw net debt fall to £280.7 million. A dividend of 2.2p has been declared, making a total of 3.3p (2.75p) for the year.

Hays moves Tibble to business process

By Paul Durman

THE finance director of Hays, the distributor and office services group, is to be moved over to run the group's newly assembled business process support group, one of Hays's fastest-growing operations.

David Tibble is to relinquish the group finance director's post to run the business process operations, which last year turned over £60 million.

Mr Tibble is taking over from Graham Williams who is moving on to the operational side of the business, while Neil McLachlan, who has taken on an increasing amount of Mr Tibble's responsibilities, moves up to the group finance director post.

Hays formed the business process group from a series of acquisitions made over the past two years. These include Paperstream, an invoicing and payment processing firm, Castleton, which runs billing systems, DEI Group, which offers document management and imaging, and Axis Resources, an IT outsourcing business. Activities also include helping to run call centres.

Hays reported another set of strong results yesterday that showed pre-tax profits rising by 20 per cent to £110.4 million on turnover of £877 million. It is increasing its interim dividend by 16 per cent to 2p a share.

The growth was led by the personnel division, which increased profits 30 per cent to £41.6 million. Ronnie Frost, chairman, reiterated his confidence that Britain is not facing a recession. He said: "If anything, there could be an improvement in the slowdown in growth that's occurred over the last six months. There are not problems that are big enough to affect the results of the group."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Sage launches £78m bid for Tetra

SAGE GROUP has launched a £78.1 million recommended takeover bid for Tetra, a rival business and accounting software supplier. The offer of cash and shares values each Tetra share at 305p, a near-63 per cent premium over the price at which the shares traded before bid talks were made public in late January. Tetra directors have given irrevocable undertakings to accept the offer in respect of 21.7 per cent of the company. Tetra shares rose 42p to 286p while Sage fell 40p to £19.77½.

Sage said the acquisition would accelerate its development in the mid-market sector and would give rise to cross-selling benefits. Yesterday Tetra announced operating profits of £1.6 million before exceptional items and non-recurring costs for the six months to November 30. In its last full year the company, which came to the stock market in 1998, earned £3.4 million.

Perkins set to spend

PERKINS FOODS, which returned £58 million cash to shareholders last year, may hand back more money and make further acquisitions. At the end of the year to December 31, the company had £13 million of cash and about £60 million borrowing facilities, Ian Blackburn, chief executive, said. Pre-tax profit rose from £28 million to £55.1 million after the company made a profit of £33.6 million on the disposal of its fresh produce division. Diluted earnings per share rose from 9.7p to 29.7p and a final dividend of 2.85p (2.8p) will give a full-year payout of 4.65p (4.6p).

Danisco acquisition

DANISCO, the Danish food group, yesterday agreed to buy Cultor, the Finnish ingredients company, for DKr9.5 billion (£881 million), creating Europe's sixth-biggest food company. The new group, to be headquartered in Copenhagen, will retain the Danisco name. In sugar and sweeteners the enlarged Danisco will become the fourth-largest maker in Europe after Sudzucker of Germany, France's Eridania and British Sugar. It will leapfrog ICI Quest and Dutch-owned DSM Gist Brocades to become Europe's largest food ingredients maker.

D&G profits advance

DOMESTIC & GENERAL, the specialist domestic appliance breakdown insurer, saw pre-tax profit rise from £6.65 million to £7.3 million in the six months to December 31. Turnover was up 10.3 per cent to £49.7 million in a period that the company said had been one of "both stability and progress". Diluted earnings per share rose from 13.08p to 14.29p and the company will pay an interim dividend of 4p (3.5p). The shares fell back 5p to 595p yesterday, having recently touched a high of 620p.

Horace Small sells

HORACE SMALL APPAREL is raising £35.8 million through the sale of its North American clothing businesses. The disposal of Horace Small Holdings Corporation, announced yesterday, will trigger the payment of executive bonuses totalling $600,000 (£375,000) to three senior directors of the subsidiary. In 1998 the US businesses earned operating profits of £900,000 on turnover of £72.1 million. The buyer is VF Workwear. Some £35 million on the balance sheet will be returned to shareholders. Horace Small shares rose 28p to 79½p.

Pendragon cautious

PENDRAGON, the motor dealer, expects the new car market this year to be weaker than in 1998, although the outcome was difficult to predict because of the new system of two registration plate changes in March and September. The company, whose takeover of rival Evans Halshaw was completed last month, reported a rise in 1998 pre-tax profits to £18.66 million from £15.08 million in the previous 12 months. Earnings were unchanged at 21.2p a share. The total dividend rises to 12p a share from 10.7p, with a final 8p.

Dixon Motors ahead

DIXON MOTORS, the car retailer that is also the UK's largest retailer of motorcycles, reported a rise in 1998 pre-tax profits to £11 million from £8.7 million on turnover that rose to almost £638 million from £413.6 million. Paul Dixon, chief executive, said the company had made an encouraging start to the year, with like-for-like used car sales up 17 per cent and motorcycle sales up 29 per cent. A final 6p dividend lifts the total 20 per cent to 9p, payable from earnings that were little changed at 26.5p, against 26.3p, because of a higher tax rate.

F&C puts faith in buyback plan

By Robert Lea

FOREIGN & Colonial, the largest general investment trust quoted in London, yesterday said it is putting faith in a £300 million share buyback programme and the launch of its own individual savings account next month to boost its flagging share price.

The trust reported that at December 31 net assets had risen by 11.8 per cent to £2.39 billion or 227.41p a share. However, over the same period F&C's share price had risen by just 7.1 per cent to 188¼p — a 17.2 per cent discount to net asset value.

Blame for the widening discount is attached to F&C's investment performance, which beat the 10.9 per cent growth of the FTSE All-share index but lagged behind the returns from index-tracking funds following the FTSE 100 and the Dow Jones on Wall Street.

John Sclater, the chairman, admitted a number of investment failings including limited exposure to the strong-performing UK telecoms sector.

He said F&C will be redoubling its efforts to raise its profile with investors: "We are expanding our own marketing efforts and the launch of the Isa presents a particular opportunity for us."

F&C shares rose ¾p to 195½p. The dividend per share is up to 2.77p from 2.51p.

Tempus, page 30

Equities fall in thin trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1998/99 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
646	385	Allied Domecq	473	- 9½	5.4	12.4
412½	279½	Burtonwood (HP) [illegible]	286	..	6.6	12.8
42½	7	Burn Stewart	12½	...	...	...
795	432	Diageo	689½	..	2.9	30.9
900	625	Glenmorangie A	720	...	2.5	19.6
325	225	Highland Dist	346½	.	4.7	11.3
59½	18½	Marston W [illegible]	27	...	...	...
2021½	725	SA Breweries	898½	- 46½	4.0	19.6

BANKS

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

CONSTRUCTION

DISTRIBUTORS

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

LEISURE & HOTELS

MEDIA

PHARMACEUTICALS

MINING

OIL & GAS

OTHER FINANCIAL

PRINTING & PAPER

PROPERTY

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

SUPPORT SERVICES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TRANSPORT

WATER

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

SHORTS (under 5 years)

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

LONGS (over 15 years)

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED

Muffins are perfect recipe for success

By Henrietta Lake

A new image, clever marketing and a booming snacking culture in the UK has turned into the perfect recipe for The Fabulous Bakin' Boys almost to double turnover in just over one year.

The firm, based in Witney in Oxfordshire, expects sales worth £10 million this year after rebranding its 40 varieties of muffins, flapjacks and cookies in 1997 and deciding to risk allocating 10 per cent of its turnover to marketing each year.

The Fabulous Bakin' Boys, a partnership between two brothers, Gary and Jon Frank, and husband and wife team Andrew and Sara Staples, now has a staff of 72 but started in very different circumstances after the stock market crash of the late 1980s.

Having been on the dole for a year, Gary Frank, a former City trader, decided to set up the Delicious Donut Company with the help of the Government's enterprise scheme. Business was fine until the competition hotted up.

Mr Frank said: "Soon everyone was cashing in on the snacking craze; our doughnuts and muffins were being copied everywhere. We had to think of a way to set ourselves apart from the competition and appeal directly to the customer."

But this was not an easy task as the partners believed that a totally different style of marketing was needed in order to succeed and wanted to distance themselves from the way baked goods were traditionally sold using homely values.

So the partners hired a recruitment consultant to find a marketing manager and briefed a design agency to help them to rethink their product. The project cost £750,000 and was funded entirely through accumulated profits, on a turnover of just under £5 million in 1997.

It was a nerve-racking nine months for the firm as numerous ideas from the design team were rejected. But then, with only a couple of months to go before the money ran out, the idea of the Fabulous Bakin' Boys, its logo, name and mission to bring "fun, innovative, and tasty products to the consumer" was born.

"It was a lot of money for us to spend back then and we really thought we were running out of time, but in the end the payback has been huge," Mr Frank said.

Today the company has a new £2 million factory in Witney and the brothers can count the caterers Compass and Gardner Merchant, plus Boots, Morrisons, Budgens and British Airways among their clients.

Last month the Bakin' Boys decided to take their message to the streets and invested in ten liveried London taxis. They decided to plump for the taxis, which cost £50,000 for 12 months on the road, rather than 300 to 400 posters on the London Underground, for a month, at twice the price. Nick Brown, Agriculture Minister, even arrived at a recent trade fair in one of the new taxis. Another ten are on order for outside London.

The unorthodox approach seems to be paying off. In April and May this year a national press advertising campaign is planned to tie in with the arrival, months ahead of schedule, of packs of individually wrapped Fabulous Bakin' Boys muffins in the supermarkets.



Gary, left, and Jon Frank invested in liveried taxis to advertise their products. Congratulating them on their initiative is Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister

Online banking meets key needs

By Richard Colwill

TIME and money are the two things in shortest supply in most small firms, so the arrival of online banking, with lower charges and increased flexibility and speed, promises to bring real benefits.

About 10 per cent of small and medium-sized companies currently use online banking, but recent figures suggest that numbers are set to rise.

The most widespread online service is PC banking, which involves connecting a PC — via a modem — to a bank's mainframe computer. Most high street banks provide a PC banking service. Costs can vary, so it is worthwhile comparing set-up fees and the full range of charges.

The Royal Bank of Scotland, whose fees are broadly in line with competitors, charges £10 a month, with no set-up fee. Transferring money between RBS accounts is free, but there is a 10p charge for transfers with another bank and for any Bacs payment. The transfer takes two working days. For same-day transfers via Chaps, the charge is £6.

The Co-operative Bank has a set-up fee of £100 plus VAT, and monthly charges are either £10 or £15, depending on the level of service required. Single transfers cost either 20p or 25p. Transfers between Co-operative Bank accounts are free. Making bulk Bacs payments will cost an additional £15 a month. Each transfer costs either 14p or 15p.

What you get for your money with online banking is up-to-date information on account balances and recent entries, along with facilities such as making payment instructions and transfers between accounts. Downloading account information on to accounting software, such as *Quicken* or *Microsoft Money*, is possible, but it is worthwhile checking the compatibility between what the bank provides and what you have installed in your PC. More complex services, such as arranging loans, still have to be done through speaking to managers at the branch or by telephone.

However, soon some of these and other more complex transactions could be done on a computer via the Internet. Many of the high street banks are now involved in pilot projects to develop Internet-based online banking.

Internet banking avoids the restrictions of "closed" networks and lets the user form multiple links to do business with banks, customers and suppliers. The Internet will make online banking simpler and more responsive to the demands of small business — and, as in the US, charges should fall. Another advantage of the Internet is that new software can be ordered and downloaded instantly, rather than being sent by the bank.

Barclays Bank will, from today, offer an Internet connection with 5,000 companies and organisations nationwide, including the Inland Revenue. The service can be downloaded instantly from the Internet and a fund transfer will cost 45p. Barclays offers its Internet banking service with a connection charge of £20 and a fee of £15 a year.

BUSINESS BYTES

CONTACTS

NatWest 0800 777888; Barclays 0800 0000978; Royal Bank of Scotland 0345 165108; Co-operative Bank 0345 616616; Lloyds — contact local branch.

Final chance to limit risk of Budget blues

ALTHOUGH it is billed as the "Budget for Enterprise" and expected to have an overall positive impact on small firms, there are several steps that business owners can take to minimise any nasty shocks before Budget day next Tuesday (Henrietta Lake writes).

Make sure that you do not miss the boat by failing to capitalise on certain tax reliefs while they still exist. The main areas to tackle before March 9 concern possible changes to inheritance tax.

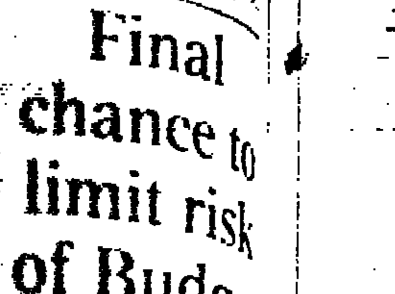
The first is business property tax relief. Many experts are predicting that it is likely to be reduced from 100 per cent to only 50 per cent, unless the shareholder has control of the company. It may also be extended to exclude a wider variety of trades along the lines of the restrictions to the relief under the Enterprise Investment Scheme. In order not to lose out on the existing levels of relief, consult an accountant about setting up a discretionary trust.

Business owners wanting to make sure that they reap the maximum benefit from the current retirement relief allowance, before it is phased out as part of the reform of capital gains tax, may also want to take action over the next seven days.

The Chancellor has stipulated that the relief will start to decrease from April 6, the start of the new tax year, but he may decide to bring this deadline forward to Budget day itself in order to guarantee revenue to the Treasury and discourage too many people from rushing to their accountants. Business owners not wishing to take the chance should crystallise gains now and make use of the full £250,000 relief by using a life interest trust.

Mike Warburton, senior tax partner at Grant Thornton, the accountant, said: "We can't predict exactly what the Chancellor will do but making some changes before next week might be worth the trouble."





Government puts small business first

THE Government is putting the needs of small business first in the most wide-ranging review of company law for 40 years.

Last week the Department of Trade and Industry published its consultation document on company law reform seen by the smaller business community as a much-needed overhaul of the existing code "designed by big business for big business".

The report concludes that legislation should be rewritten on a "think small first" basis, while retaining integrated legislation that provides for all.

When the new code is introduced in 2001 it will have profound implications for every aspect of business life and may challenge many principles on which firms now run.

At the centre of the review is the concern on the part of Stephen Byers, Trade and Industry Secretary, to promote the competitiveness of British business. The report sets clear objectives of minimising the complexity, and increasing the accessibility, of company law. It aims to make registration, incorporation and growth easier for Britain's bosses and offer an attractive business environment to those overseas. Any increase in reporting burdens should fall on big companies, while smaller firms will be left alone or even exempted.

The company law review, which is seeking opinion from a broad cross section of industry, is also examining models of company law developed in other countries, particularly those in Australia and New Zealand which have recently redrawn their own codes.

Andrew Davidson, a partner at Eversheds, the law firm, said: "We need to move away from the existing mish-mash of company law which ignores the changes of the last 100 years from e-commerce to the way people hold shares."

Nicholas Goulding, of the Forum of Private Business, said: "A distortion currently exists where companies are set up in a particular way to comply with the law rather than in the best interests of business and competition; for example, the structure of limited liability is holding businesses back. Many of the benefits of limited status have already been eroded by Government and big institutions and yet owner-managers still face all the excessive legislative burdens. The *quid pro quo* doesn't work any more."

The Forum of Private Business and the Federation of Small Businesses are both calling for a completely separate legal code for small firms.

Almost every aspect of business will be looked at in the review. Among some of the proposals being studied are the simplification of the law relating to company formation, accession, the maintenance of share capital and articles of association.

Key changes to issues in financial reporting such as the role, form and content of company accounts and even the speed at which they must be submitted are also expected. The ten-month gap between the end of a firm's financial year and the presentation of its accounts could be shortened to several months.

The role and nature of a firm's annual general meeting will be debated as well as the relationship between groups of firms, such as that between a holding company and its subsidiaries.

But, citing the example of directors' pay, Mr Davidson argues that it is important to be wary that the political ideas of the day do not become so embedded in the legislation that it becomes unworkable at a future date.



LINKS

WEBSITE: www.dti.gov.uk

Launch offers voice for entrepreneurs

THE TIMES today launches a new weekly section for Britain's growing small and medium-sized firms.

In Business will be keeping in touch with the needs of its readers, providing help, encouragement, ideas and information and a platform from which entrepreneurs can make their voices heard. Successive governments have proclaimed their determination to foster the enterprise culture; successive governments have added to the burdens that can quash the most entrepreneurial spirit. In Business will make clear to the politicians and bureaucrats just what business people believe needs to be done to help them grow the economy and provide the essential new jobs.

Each week, In Business will bring the news you need to know, on technology, finance, export aid and employment law. We will examine the secrets of successful companies and the pitfalls that spelt failure for others. We want to work for Britain's businesses. Please tell us how we can help by writing to or e-mailing In Business.



BEN GURR

Andrew Senior, who provides replica food for shop displays, has real worries about the cost of converting to the euro

Left in the lurch on euro

Entrepreneurs want a verdict before they pay out, says Henrietta Lake

THREE in four businesses are demanding an end to uncertainty over the euro with a referendum before the next general election.

More than 2,400 businesses took part in the Forum of Private Business ballot, with 72 per cent saying they wanted a referendum before the election, indicating that Tony Blair's National Changeover Plan will not convince them to commit funds to the euro without a guarantee that Britain will adopt it.

Nick Goulding, of the Forum, said: "Regardless of whether the conditions for entry are right at present, an early decision on the principle would allow our members to plan with certainty."

Sir Clive Thompson, President of the CBI, agreed, saying: "What business still needs if it is to invest substantially is an unequivocal commitment to British entry."

Lloyds Bank says changing for the euro will cost every small business at least £2,000. Stephen Alambritis, of the Federation of Small Businesses, said: "The euro will cost five times the amount of preparing for the millennium bug, yet business is being told to prepare intensively."

Andrew Senior, of Replica Production Group, a model food maker that exports to France and Germany, says he will not invest ahead of a date being set and a referendum result. "I expect to have to allocate 2 per cent of my turnover to preparations, which is a lot when margins are already tight," he said.

The EuroPlanner, a CD-Rom available from Business Links on 08456 010199, can also be downloaded from the Treasury's website at: www.euro.gov.uk.



IN BRIEF

Firms less pessimistic on economy

Independent businesses are becoming less pessimistic about the economic climate, according to the 3i UK Enterprise Barometer. The effect of falling interest rates appears to be restoring business confidence in firms backed by 3i, the venture capitalist. Although companies are still operating in a tough environment, more believe that conditions are improving for starting up and expanding.

■ Eversheds, the law firm, is warning businesses that the outsourcing time bomb is ticking. It says that suppliers and purchasers that do not form proper commercial agreements and consider the get-out clauses right at the start of their relationship with outsourcers could find the deals exploding in their face.

■ Baker Tilly, the management consultant, and 3i, the venture capitalist, have teamed up to offer a start-up package for businesses planning to expand through franchising. The package includes feasibility studies, setting up pilot operations and management support supplied by Baker Tilly, while 3i provides the venture and growth capital. For information call 0171-413 5212.

■ The Institute of Personnel and Development is running a series of employment law workshops entitled "Fairness at Work in the Millennium", starting on April 13. The tour will visit Manchester, Northampton, London, Bristol, Glasgow, Basingstoke, Leeds and Edinburgh. The one-day workshop costs £395 plus £69.13 VAT. For information call 0181-263 3434.

■ Less red tape and a reform of business rates are top of the Budget wish-list for small firms, according to research released by Barclays Bank.

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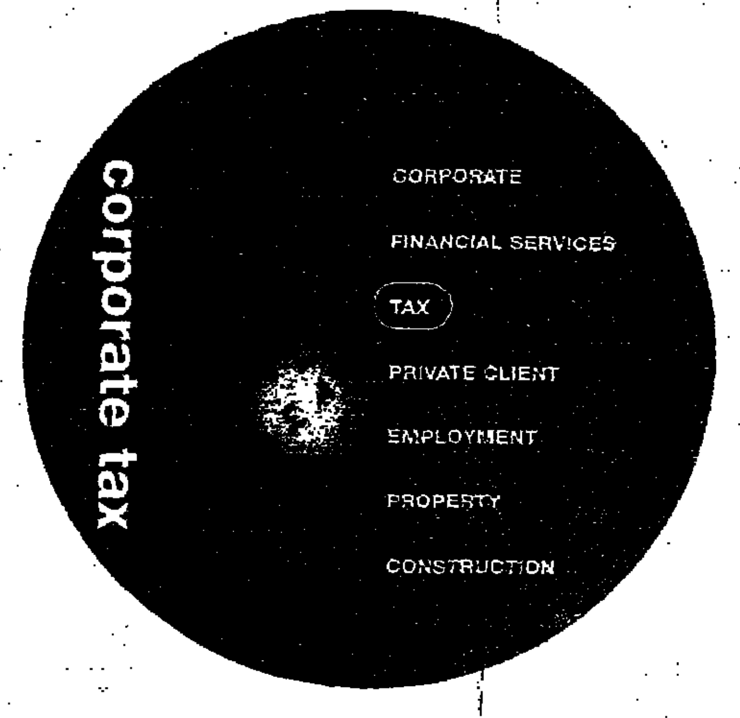




THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE



LEGAL APPOINTMENTS



Corporate Tax - Senior Assistant
3-6 years' PQE

Speechly Bircham is focused on success. In each of our seven core practice areas we have an acknowledged and often leading reputation for quality. Acting for top clients - many of them international - we consistently punch above our weight.

Nowhere is our success more pronounced than in tax. We are one of only three firms to have received recommendations in the 1998 Legal 500 for expertise in each of corporate, VAT and personal taxation. We are specialists in developing and implementing innovative tax structures and, unlike many tax groups, we play a direct role in generating new business. Our work is characterised by an innovative attitude to problem solving and the effective management of our clients' legal affairs.

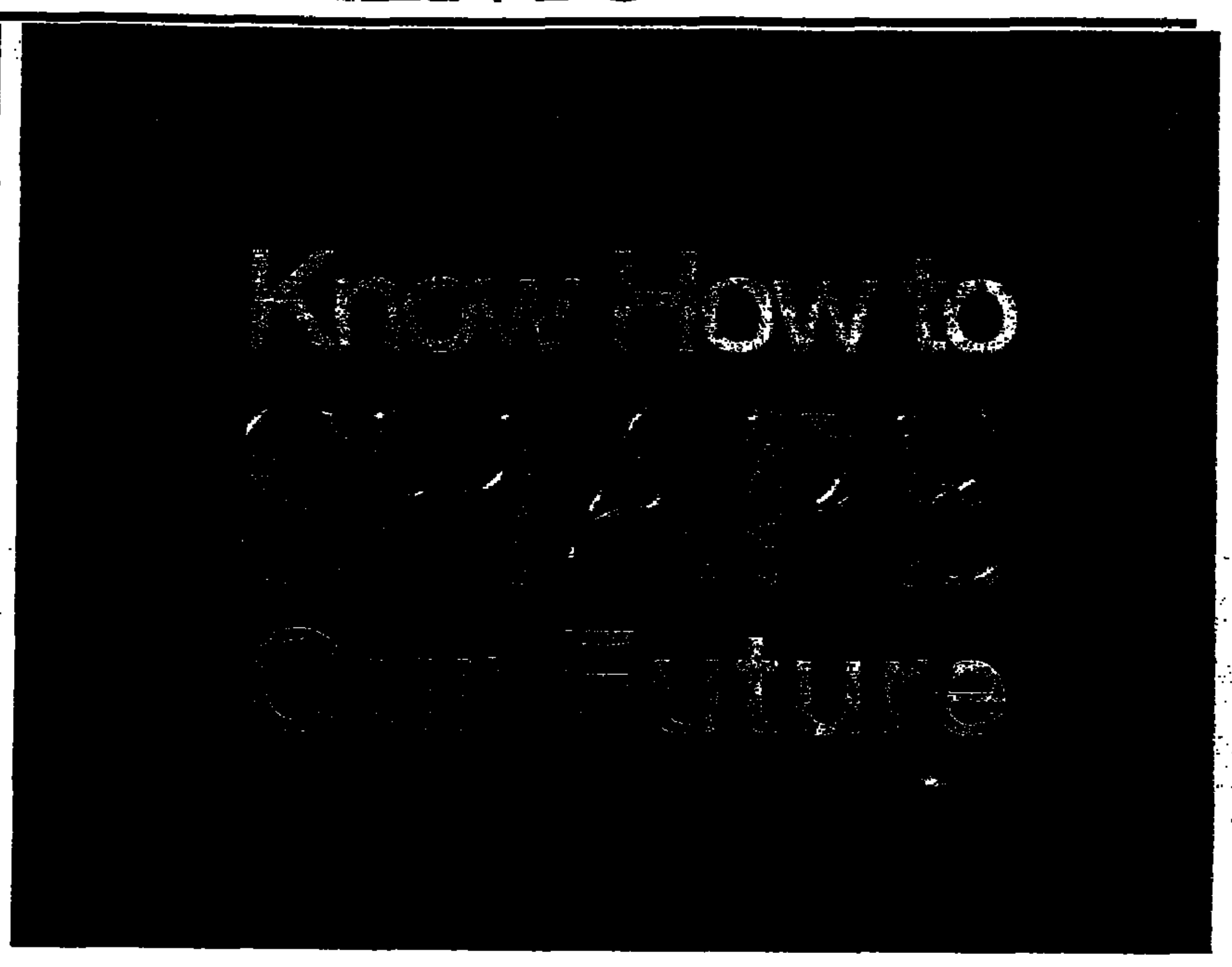
As a senior tax lawyer, you will work on a wide range of commercial tax transactions, many of which will be international in scope. This is a superb opportunity to build your professional reputation in an environment where corporate support will far from dominate your work. To succeed, you will need to be a City-based tax lawyer able to combine sound business acumen with exceptional legal skills. If you want to find out more about Speechly Bircham, visit us on our website www.speechlybircham.co.uk



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Knowledge Management Lawyers

Unlike the traditional PSL or know how officer our Knowledge Management lawyers play a pro-active, front line role at the very hub of what makes S J Berwin & Co tick. We see the key to maintaining our leading edge as the effective harnessing, delivery and cross-fertilisation of legal knowledge both internally within the firm and externally amongst our clients.

We seek individuals who share our vision and are attracted by the concept of turning technical developments within the law into know how based marketing and business development opportunities.

You may be a fee earning lawyer looking for something different - but not back room; or someone who has already made the transition to a non-fee earning role seeking more buzz and excitement. Either way, you must combine excellent communication skills with technical ability and commercial nous. You will also not be frightened by information technology.

Opportunities for knowledge management lawyers are currently available in the following departments:-

- Tax
- Corporate
- Financial Services
- Employment

We will consider applications on a full or part time basis or from those who are keen to combine knowledge management with some fee earning. Most importantly, there will be no glass ceilings or career boundaries. In positions key to the shaping of our future.

For more information, in complete confidence, please contact our retained consultants **Greg Abrahams** or **Cleo Stanlforth** on 0171 405 6062 (0171 435 4663 evenings/weekends) or write to them at **QD Legal** 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171 831 6394 Email: standoc@qdgroup.co.uk

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Email: clerks@13oldsquare.law.co.uk
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Conference Wednesday 10 March 1999
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Vivien Gaymer, *Company Secretary*, Enterprise Oil
Teresa Graham OBE, *Client Service Partner*, Baker Tilly
Robert Derry-Evans, *Managing Partner*, Cameron McKenna, Law Firm of the Year
Leslie Perrin, *Managing Partner*, Osborne Clarke
Anne Marie Stebbings, *Marketing Director*, PricewaterhouseCoopers
Richard Hinton, *Business Development Director*, Shoosmiths & Harrison, Winner Client Care Award
Martin Hayman, *In House Counsel*, Standard Chartered Bank

The Optional Workshop Thursday 11th March

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You will be a corporate lawyer, with 5-8 years' European pqe of major transactional issues, ideally with an international focus. A second language, in addition to English, and some exposure to the real estate sector would be strongly advantageous – but neither of these are pre-requisites. Crucially you will be able to work autonomously dealing with corporate aspects of significant property interests across Europe, liaising with local lawyers in each jurisdiction, and working alongside senior managers based in Amsterdam. You will enjoy strong local support, joining an established team that has recently been augmented by two senior managers from the company's head office.

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For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Kate Sutcliffe on 0171 405 6062 (0958 559 203 evenings/weekends) or write to her at QD In-House Legal.

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Our client is one of Hong Kong's most consistently successful commercial entities and has established a world-class reputation within its areas of operation. A multi-billion-pound business, its activities touch the lives of the vast majority of Hong Kong residents. There is great employee pride in this organisation - a corporation whose track record of top-quality delivery is as strong as its commitment to excellence.

An opportunity has arisen for a first-class, commercially-astute lawyer who unites blue-chip training with a strong track record in industry to join this most exciting of companies. Reporting to the Main Board Legal Director, but with responsibility for delivering solutions at the highest level within the organisation, this role demands proven business acumen and sound technical legal ability.

The role

- providing general commercial advice to the projects side of the operation
- working closely with the Treasury function on big-ticket finance transactions
- attending the Main Board and managing associated internal communication
- managing the insurance concerns of the organisation, including loss-adjustment
- taking a pro-active and solutions-orientated part in new business contracting.

The person

- qualified solicitor with a minimum of 10 years' post-qualification experience
- seasoned in-house counsel with a strong track record in company/commercial law
- accustomed to exposure to top-level decision-makers, but effective at all levels
- insurance experience would be preferable
- pragmatic and solutions-orientated: mentally agile and able to prioritise clearly.

Please write enclosing your cv, explaining your suitability for the role and outlining current remuneration, to Juliet Shepherd, Executive Search and Selection, Ref: 2839LA/TT, PA Consulting Group, 123 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 9SR. Tel: 0171-730 9000. Fax: 0171-333 5330. E-mail: juliet.shepherd@pa-consulting.com

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International Banking Lawyer

3-5PQE - LUXEMBOURG

Our client is one of the largest international multi-lateral lending institutions, contributing to European development and providing lending facilities to over 120 countries globally.

An additional lawyer is sought to join the Legal Directorate in Luxembourg to advise on non-European lending operations in a challenging and dynamic international arena.

The successful candidate will have gained at least 3 years' post-qualification experience in banking, structured finance and investment and have the ability to handle complex finance documentation.

Candidates should be EU nationals with a good knowledge of French. Knowledge of other European languages would be an advantage. Proven drafting skills and sound judgement, in addition to energy, drive and initiative should be evident.

Our client offers an attractive salary and range of benefits.

For more information, or a confidential discussion, please contact **Sian Bishop** or **Marian Lloyd-Jones**.



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Reading - Great opportunity for a commercial lawyer to join the legal team at major Euro telecoms co. Wide range of telecoms & general supply contracts, languages a plus.

PROPERTY- Retail Co to c£48k
London- Major retail co seeks a 3yr + pqe commercial property lawyer to join team handling a diverse workload. Rolling 6 months contract- possibly turning permanent.

TELECOMS CO 2-4yrs
London- Opportunity for pragmatic young commercial lawyer to join major telecoms co to advise on range of complex contracts including interconnect agreements.

EC/COMPETITION 3-5yrs
London- EC/competition specialist to join Blue Chip and play a vital role in advising on competition law and policy.

CONSUMER GOODS CO c.2-3yrs
Herts- Exciting new role with fast expanding consumer goods co for a young lawyer to handle varied commercial, media, IP and EU workload.

REGULATORY BODY to c£33k
City regulatory body seeks a young lawyer for varied role focused on the investigation of and reporting on claims of professional misconduct.

CO/COM- Bioscience Co 0-2yrs
Surrey- International bioscience co offers exciting first in-house move for strong co/com lawyer to join well-regarded legal team. Varied international company/commercial work.

UK COUNSEL- Telecoms Co 3-4yrs+
London - Exciting new UK Counsel role with major telecoms co. Working closely with management & advising on full range of regulatory, interconnect & corporate matters.

Perhaps you have not yet considered making your first move but are not completely happy in the firm where you trained. We spend a lot of time talking to people in exactly the same position as you - and offer the chance for you to see if life is better elsewhere. Some of our candidates will end up moving, others will stay put, confident that their present firm is the best place in which to further their career. Whether you decide to move for an improved quality or variety of work, reduced hours, change in location or increase in salary, the vacancies below are just a small sample of our current instructions.

IT NQ-2yrs
This small City firm really punches above its weight and regularly recruits from top ten City firms. It now seeks a high calibre junior lawyer for a blend of non-contentious IT including outsourcing, software licensing, internet and Year 2000 issues.

PROPERTY KNOW HOW Part Time
Brand new vacancy to set up know-how role in close-knit property team in 60 partner City firm. Working 2-3 days per week, or perhaps from home, this is an exciting role for a lawyer 4-8yrs pqe to move away from fee-earning work.

CORPORATE 1-2yrs
Would you like to follow in the tracks of other assistants who have moved from major City firms to work in this friendly Holborn practice? Our client seeks a junior corporate lawyer to join its 8 partner team undertaking a varied workload. Competitive salary.

MAJOR PROJECT LITIGATION 1-5yrs
We have a number of vacancies for top quality litigators to specialise in major project litigation. Although a background in construction or technology litigation would be advantageous this is not essential. International workload.

IT/TELECOMS 2yrs+
This popular medium-sized City firm offers a unique environment where you will be closely involved with your clients' business on an ongoing basis. The IT/Telecoms group is particularly strong and is looking for a lawyer with IT experience but not necessarily a telecoms background.

CORP. KNOW HOW Full/Part time
Unusually broad and interesting role at this medium-sized City firm. Flexible role includes general know-how, research, marketing and design & implementation of training. In addition to strong corporate experience, an outgoing personality and commercial approach are vital.

EU/COMP-Brussels NQ-1&2-4yrs
The Brussels office of this very popular City firm has seen a marked increase in its workload recently and wishes to expand by recruiting two new members to its close knit and supportive team. Competition/trade and regulatory work of the highest quality is on offer.

PATENTS 4yrs+
The City office of this national firm has a reputation for handling some of the most high profile IP work. You will have the opportunity to undertake an unusually wide variety of work, dealing with both contentious and non-contentious matters. Marketing skills are also welcomed.

PRIVATE CLIENT/TAXATION 2-5yrs
This long established 15 partner City firm has a strong practice handling the development and protection of assets for high net worth individuals. A new member of the team is sought with particular expertise in taxation. You will enjoy an unrivalled reputation and congenial environment.

EMPLOYMENT 2-4yrs
If you handle a mix of contentious and non-contentious work and would like a 'quality of life' move, which enables you to maintain your quality of work, the opportunity to join this firm should not pass you by. City location, refreshing culture & a negligible amount of corporate support work.

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION NQ-2yrs
Everybody wants to work for this West End media practice, which now has a rare opening for a junior lawyer in its litigation department. You will handle a broad blend of work including media, contracts, IP, defamation & property.

Please contact Struan Hall or Helen McAtamney (In-House) or Caroline Fish, Jackie Osbaldeston or Sophie Brooks (London-Practice) on 0171 430 1711 or write to us at Graham Gill & Young Legal Recruitment, 46 Kingsway, London WC2B 6EN. Fax 0171 831 4186. E-mail:ggy@netcomuk.co.uk

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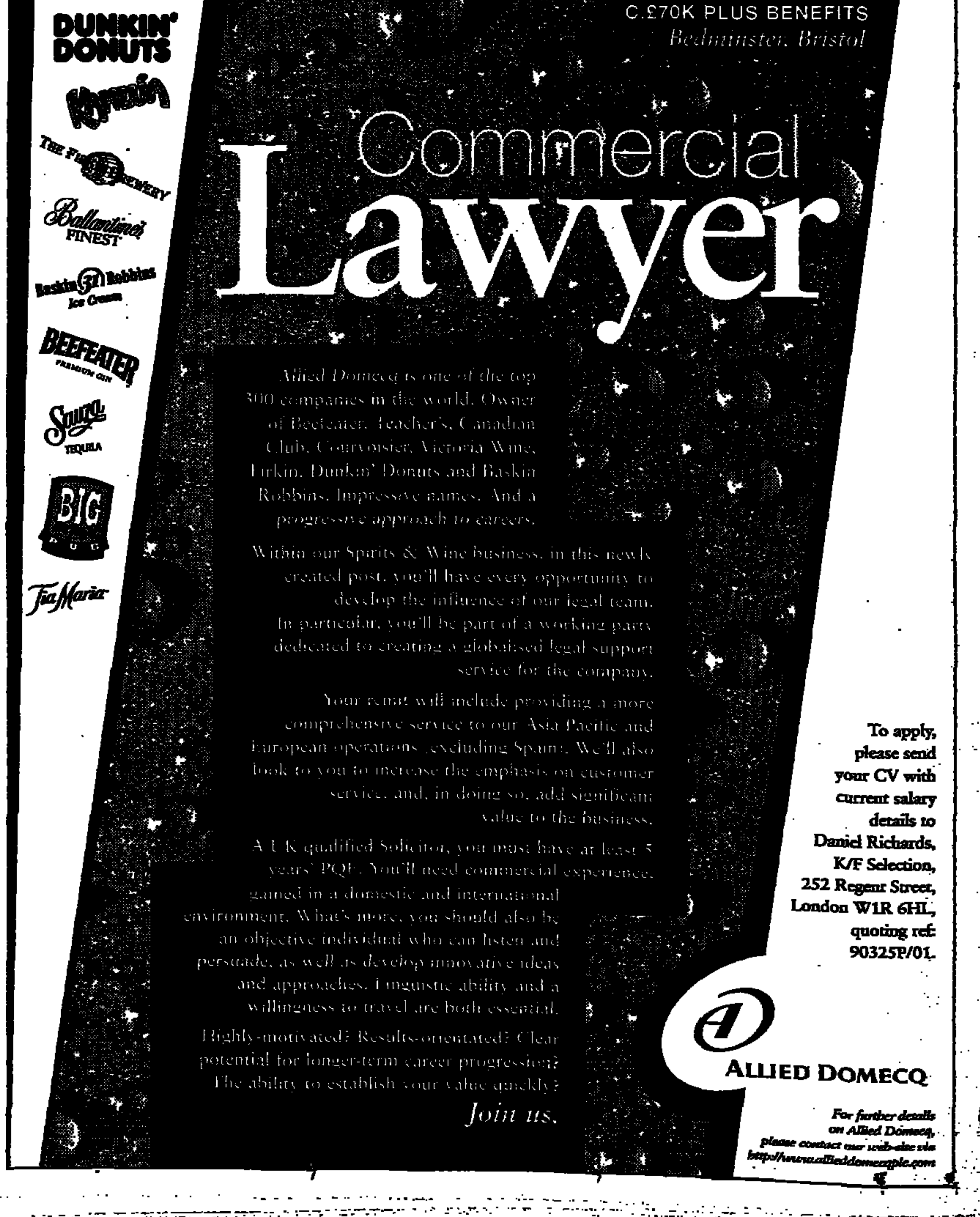
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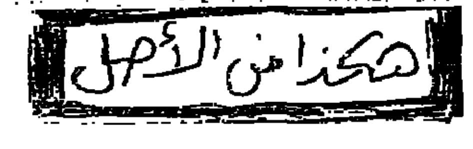
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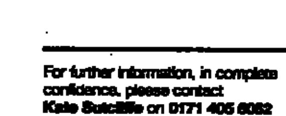
The Role

The company is seeking to appoint its first lawyer to work closely with the Chief Executive and Finance Director in London to drive the growth of the company. There will be significant M&A activity Europe-wide, the Head of Legal will be an integral part of the transaction team and will carry responsibility for the full range of corporate legal issues.

Your Profile

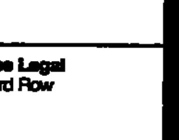
- At least five years PQE, experience in-house preferable, both corporate and commercial skills, some cross-border transactional work.
- European languages (particularly German and/or French) a strong advantage.
- An astute negotiator, strong influencing skills, the maturity and presence to present legal implications and strategy to the Board, focussed on commercial results.
- Adept at commissioning specialist legal advice where necessary and liaising with advisers across diverse European jurisdictions.

This is a truly exceptional opportunity to build a company which intends to make its presence felt in the next millennium. It will suit an ambitious, entrepreneurial lawyer who has solid technical skills but is not afraid to roll up sleeves to get the job done.



For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Kate Sutcliffe on 0171 405 6062 (0956 569 203 evenings/weekends) or write to her at QD In-House Legal.

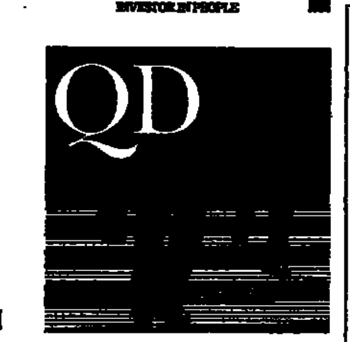
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This successful mid-sized London practice has benefited from strong leadership and a clear sense of direction. The employment team enjoys a particularly high profile working closely at board level with a number of blue chip corporates. They seek an energetic, successful young partner with evidence of marketing and practice development ability. A future head of department role is on offer for the right person. (Ref. 25800)

INSOLVENCY — TO £350,000

This highly successful City firm, already a substantial player within the banking and financial services sectors, is to develop its insolvency practice. As a result the firm is now looking to appoint a partner who will possess the commercial acumen and dynamic approach required in order to progress this lucrative area of work. As the firm already acts for leading UK accountancy firms, banks and financial institutions, there is enormous potential for growth. (Ref. 25641)

TELECOMS/NEW MEDIA — TO £80,000

Undoubtedly one of the world's leading law firms, the client base of this major player is impressive to say the least. One of the fastest growing areas in the firm is the telecommunications, new media, commerce and data protection team. If you have up to 7 years' experience in one of these sectors, a strong academic record, commercial awareness and ambition, then seriously consider this. (Ref. 16557)

FINANCIAL SERVICES/FUNDS — £TOP CITY

An enabling culture has made this one of the leading City firms in financial services and investment funds work. This is a great opportunity to join a team at the heart of the firm's strategy for the future. You will benefit from a blue chip client base and a commitment on the part of the firm to develop this sector. Lawyers with ability and enthusiasm currently focusing on corporate, commercial banking work will be offered retraining. (Ref. 19279)

PROJECT FINANCE — £MID ATLANTIC

The London office of this premier Canadian firm practices both UK and Canadian law. Working with a number of the firm's key international clients, the project finance team is particularly busy and is looking for a lawyer with up to 4 years' experience to provide UK law advice on some ground breaking projects. On offer is work of the highest quality, a friendly, supportive culture, a balanced lifestyle, excellent prospects and a step-up in salary. (Ref. 25686)

TAX — TO £500,000

This leading US firm is universally acknowledged as being a major player in most of the major legal centres in the world. Its well established London office enjoys a supportive, meritocratic culture and is viewed as being absolutely essential to the firm's global success. It is looking for a first class tax partner to further consolidate this side of its practice. The financial rewards and status will be commensurate with the expertise you offer. (Ref. 10906)

BANKING — TO £80,000

The thriving banking group of this dynamic City firm is currently seeking ambitious, commercially aware assistants at all levels. This is the ideal opportunity for lawyers wishing to handle a broad caseload, covering mainstream acquisition finance through to the financial aspects of major projects. If you are seeking high quality work in a supportive team environment where your view counts, no matter what your level of experience, this may be the position for you. (Ref. 22797)

LITIGATION — £85,000

This well regarded US firm enjoys a particularly high profile in London. It is looking to broaden its UK base in the City yet further. Having appointed it first UK litigation partner, it now requires excellent litigation assistants with 2-5 years' pqe to develop a new litigation team. You should have experience of banking and heavyweight commercial litigation gained in a leading City firm. You should also have strong academics. (Ref. 25894)

BANKING /FINANCE — TO £68,000

The asset finance team at this leading international firm, already a recognised market leader, is seeking to recruit a number of bright assistants with between 1-5 years' pqe. Long established, with an enviable Client base, this firm also has an impressive international network of offices. Its lawyers operate a seamless, global service to a fantastic array of clients. It is difficult to better this opportunity in terms of quality and variety of work and career development. (Ref. 17805)

SPORTS GOVERNANCE — TO £40,000

This niche sports practice works closely with various sports federations and governing bodies. It is looking for lawyers to advise on issues of doping, drug taking and the regulation of the practice of sport. If you are a lawyer with up to 5 years' pqe with relevant experience or, alternatively, if you are a first class commercial lawyer who can display evidence and knowledge of the legal issues relevant to this area of law, then find out more. (Ref. 25954)

For further information on private practice vacancies please contact **Andrew Caulfield or Yvonne Smyth** (both qualified lawyers) on 0171 523 1240 (01483 828110 evenings/weekends). Fax 0171 523 3839. E-mail andrew.caulfield@zarakgroup.com Alternatively please write to them at ZMB, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PL.

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Leading City practice seeks academically well-qualified assistants from firms known in this field, to do financial regulatory work/banking disputes.
Ref: 37934 — Tim Greenland

Insurance Litigation — NQ-2yrs' pqe
Join this litigation team in a leading City practice. Work will include professional indemnity, product liability and reinsurance disputes.
Ref: 29188 — Claire Weston

Construction — NQ-4 yrs' pqe
Construction lawyer sought to work in an established department of a medium-sized City firm. Must have had previous related experience.
Ref: 36699 — Jessica Jay

INDUSTRY

Commercial — 2-4 yrs' pqe
Leading investment bank seeks commercial lawyer to deal with a range of contractual issues (emp, IP/IT). Excellent opportunity.
Ref: 43250 — James Newman

Bid Manager — 3 yrs' + pqe
Renowned IT company seeks a contracts specialist for senior cross-divisional role; strong negotiation skills essential; IT experience preferable.
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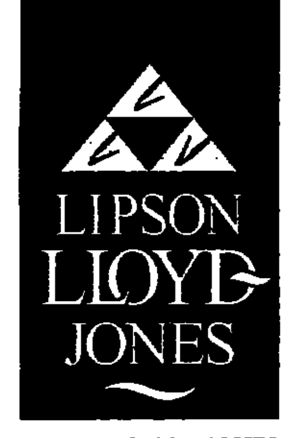
City — 4PQE+

Our client, a major international bank, seeks to recruit a senior lawyer to join its high profile City based Legal Department.

The work will involve advising on a range of legal and commercial issues relating to trade and commodity finance, project finance and commercial banking. The successful candidate will be responsible for drafting and developing both existing and new capital and money market products, facility letters, foreign exchange, loan and structured finance documentation.

Applicants must have previous relevant experience gained within a banking or commercial environment. Strong communication skills are essential, together with the personality and ability to work as a member of a team. The successful candidate will also be expected to deputise for the Head of the Department.

If you would like to apply for this exciting opportunity, contact **Lucy Boyd, Director,** for a confidential discussion.



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LONDON- Non-Contentious Employment Law/General Commercial Solicitor with 5 years PQE + required for long-term contract with major Oil/Gas corporation. Contact: Simon Beresford-Webb Tel: 0171-236-4625 (agy)

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LAWYER Legal Department - Oslo

The legal department has 10 staffmembers working in an international environment. The department is responsible for Skuld's claims handling of defence cases/FD&D, and provides advice to other departments and to members as required.

The position will include:
- Appraisal of all types of maritime contracts and cases
- Assistance to members and in-house
- Management of Legal proceedings (arbitration and court cases)
- Active participation in seminars

The right candidate will have:
- Practiced as a lawyer with expertise in maritime law
- In-depth knowledge of English law
- Preferably 2-3 years experience within insurance/Defence/P&I
- Excellent communication
- Written and spoken language abilities preferable both in Norwegian and English

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London Fire & Civil Defence Authority

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£28,830 - £32,298 pa inc.

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(Job share – 17.5 hours per week)
£28,830 - £32,298 pa inc. pro rata

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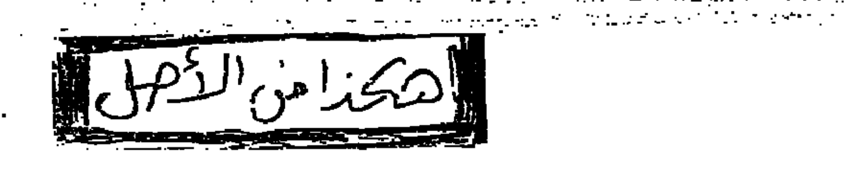
(b) manage a personal caseload of civil litigation work (mainly personal injury and damage to property cases); criminal prosecutions (and related appeals and judicial reviews) and other enforcement activity under fire safety and other enforcement legislation; and give lectures and train staff (e.g., in collecting evidence having regard to the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984).

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For further details and (an) application form(s) please contact Mr B Lawrence, Dept S, Legal Branch, Room 611MB, Fire Brigade HQ, Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SD or call 0171-587 4597 quoting ref. FB 107 for the whole time Employment & General Lawyer post and FB 108 for the job-share Enforcement & Civil Litigation Lawyer post. Please state clearly the post(s) that you are interested in. Closing date for the submission of completed application forms is 19 March 1999.

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LAW

Television formats and copyright protection

Who owns One Man and His Dog? **Peter McInerney** and **David Rose** assess the rules



BBC

Robin Page and friend: can any television company run with the format of the BBC series he presents?

The BBC's decision to drop *One Man and His Dog* has raised hackles among the programme's devoted viewers and prompted several broadcasters, including BSkyB and Border Television, to explore the possibility of developing their own version.

To add to the controversy, the BBC announced that it owns the rights to the programme's format, which many might assume to be in the public domain. Consequently, any third party contemplating a programme with an identical or similar format would be obliged to pay the BBC.

Television format rights are an established commodity, but they are not recognised as such in English law. Significantly, copyright cannot protect concepts or ideas *per se*. It is only when they are expressed in a permanent form, for example in committing the format to writing or developing unique props or sets, that they can be given copyright protection as artistic works. Even if a format is expressed in writing, it can be difficult to protect by copyright unless it is scripted or at least capable of performance without reference to additional materials.

The late Hughie Green's failure to establish that the format of *Opportunuity Knocks* was protected by copyright in New Zealand is often cited. Nor was he able to prove that there had been any passing-off because his show had never been seen in that country.

By contrast, where scripts are integral to the format, as with sitcoms and dramas, copyright will, in most cases, provide sufficient protection because it would be difficult to lift the storylines without infringing copyright in the scripts. Accordingly, when Granada decided to sell the format to its series *Cracker*, it licensed the right to use all its elements for the production of a new version which was broadcast worldwide as *Fitz*.

In the absence of copyright protection, broadcasters can protect format rights by other means. A confidentiality agreement will give some protection to a format creator, although important players are unwilling to sign such documents.

In the case of established formats, broadcasters can rely on the law of passing-off if they can prove that the viewing public is confused into believing that the new show is, in fact, the old show or has been licensed by the original owner. Passing-off is more likely where the stars, sets and name of the original programme have been reproduced intact.

The title of any programme can be protected as a registered trademark, a policy the BBC has adopted for some of its popular shows, such as Radio 4's *Just a Minute*.

Efforts have been made to give greater protection to format rights. In 1996 the Department of Trade and Industry issued a consultative paper on the subject which met limited interest. One of the principal concerns was that the UK is a net importer of formats and therefore the new protections were likely to benefit overseas producers and broadcasters rather than the domestic industry. Indeed, the legal position of format owners can be said to have worsened as a result of a recent case in which the owner of an original film entitled *Joy* featuring an innovative "jump-editing" technique was unable to prevent an advertising agency from adopting a similar approach for its Guinness commercial.

Whether the BBC can do anything to prevent other television broadcasters from making a programme about sheepdog trials will depend on the BBC's existing legal rights and not any format rights as such. If no such rights exist, then the commercial rate for the format, at least from a legal point of view, is zero.

● *The authors are a partner and solicitor respectively at the City law firm of SJ Berwin & Co.*

Lessons of Lawrence

An open letter to the Prime Minister

The inquiry and the report into the murder of Stephen Lawrence make uncomfortable reading. As a lawyer and an ardent campaigner for equal rights, I, as much as anyone, wish to see the system vindicated and show that, in the fullness of time, the system works for all.

However, the way in which the murder investigation of Stephen Lawrence was handled has severely undermined the confidence in our justice system and shaken public trust in the police. The facts do not reveal a reason to celebrate any victories. The inquiry report identifies myriad "fundamental errors in the investigation" marred by a combination of professional incompetence, institutional racism and failure of leadership by senior officers".

The implications of the case continue to be felt. Only last week readers of one tabloid newspaper were offered large cash rewards for supplying evidence leading to the conviction of Stephen Lawrence's alleged killers. Is it really acceptable to offer such rewards? Shock tactics of this type serve only to remind us of the depths to which this case has finally brought us.

KAMLESH BAHL

Given the findings of the report, it is astonishing that it took a new Government to establish the inquiry to examine the failures. We are all indebted to Neville and Doreen Lawrence and their lawyers for their single-minded pursuit of justice against all the odds. They and Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, are to be congratulated for taking the bold and courageous step to establish this inquiry. However, the challenge now facing you, Prime Minister, is to ensure that the lessons learnt are enduring ones and that the political will to tackle racism is sustained.

The investigation of the murder and the treatment of the Lawrence family were clear denials of their legitimate rights at a tragic time. This led to the great injustice of not recognising that the Lawrence family were themselves victims. There was a basic failure to recognise that racism is unacceptable behaviour in any domain — least of all in an institution intended to serve the public, regardless of ethnic credentials.

Many police officers responsible have escaped disciplinary actions because of technicalities and we are informed that they are now beyond reach. The case against those suspected of this heinous crime was never properly prepared and the suspects — other than in the failed private prosecution — continue to face trial only by media. In addition, Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, and senior officers failed society as a whole by not using the internal inquiries to send a message against racism. They missed a golden opportunity to restore confidence in an institution so reliant on the trust of the general public to remain effective.

The Metropolitan Police Commissioner has decided to complete his term of office and use it to tackle racism in his force. His task is a difficult one. His challenge now is to restore both his personal credibility and the eroded reputation of his force on these issues within his remaining time in office. The need for him to deliver on both of these should not be underestimated.

This sad case is a classic example of Britain's failure to build equality into the mainstream culture of one of our most important institutions: the police. Yet the police are not alone in this. The report's definition of institutional racism is welcome, as is the acknowledgement that it exists within many of this country's powerful organisations.

One of my past roles as the European Commission's representative on racism and xenophobia showed me that Britain has been in the lead on race relations compared with the Continent. The record has been tarnished. It is now up to you, Mr Blair, to put it right. You have a reputation for boldness and "joined-up" thinking. I urge you to use both to tackle racism, not just within the police, but in all our institutions, whether it be education, welfare, the NHS or Whitehall.

Your package of proposals of change must not be a superficial one restricted to changes in the law. I know from my five years' experience at the Equal Opportunities Commission that what really needs to change is the culture. This can be done only by a combination of leadership, sustained commitment from the top, training and retraining, regular monitoring coupled with clear, decisive and repeated disciplinary action to establish and maintain racial equality as a core value.

Above all, those in these institutions must now listen and truly understand what it means to be denied your rights or opportunities just because you are a different colour.

Only then can Britain aspire again to be a beacon on race equality and can you be remembered as a Prime Minister who truly made Britain a fairer, more equal society.

● *The author formerly chaired the Equal Opportunities Commission and was the European Commission's representative on racism and xenophobia 1994-97. She is now deputy vice-president of the Law Society, but the views expressed here are her own.*

Legal DIARY

WHO will take over as the top family law judge in England and Wales when Sir Stephen Brown retires in September? Bets are already being laid for the appointment, which could see a woman holding the most senior judicial post yet. Lady Justice Butler-Sloss is the most senior of the contenders, who include Lords Justices Swinton Thomas, Ward and Thorpe.

Of course, the choice could come from outside the Family Division judges. One such name being bandied about is Lord Falconer of Thoroton, although sources close to the Lord Chancellor suggest that the Dome Minister remains an outsider for this judicial post.

☐ Olswang, the media law firm that represented nearly all the national newspapers in their fight against Jack Straw's injunction, may find itself in court again — in pursuit of damages for the loss suffered by *The Sunday Telegraph*, which had to remove the story from later editions. Julia Palca, who led Olswang's team, says the Home Secretary's action was pointless, because "the matter was already in the public domain". Mr Straw might be forced to justify on public interest grounds why he sought the injunction.

☐ The wheels of justice by tradition grind slowly. But the latest reform should enter the record books for legal delays. The Lord Chancellor's Department has just announced that from April, Knightsbridge Crown Court will be changing its name to Blackfriars Crown Court to reflect its present location. When did the court move from being around the corner from Harrods? Six years ago.

☐ City law firms have come out in favour of one-stop shopping. The City of London Law Society has replied in its submission to the Law Society consultation exercise that rules should be relaxed so that law firms can become subsidiaries of other professional-services firms, such as accountants.

☐ How can people find a good divorce lawyer? Hard on the heels of the Law Society's new family law panel of specialist solicitors comes another scheme, this time from the Solicitors' Family Law Association. More than 1,300 lawyers have applied to join and the first accredited solicitors will be named in July.

☐ Solicitors are facing demands for tax they have already paid because the Inland Revenue is swamped with paperwork generated by the January 31 self-assessment deadline, says the accountancy firm Smith & Williamson. Colin Ives, a partner, says that many tax statements sent out this week reflect underpayments although tax has been fully paid. "Watch out," he adds, "for the Revenue trying to impose non-negotiable interest penalties on any tax deemed not to have been held by it after this month."

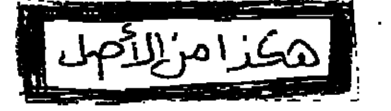
☐ A barrister specialising in informational technology work at the techie firm Tarlo Lyons has called on the Government to give businesses similar legislative protection to that enacted in Australia. A Millennium Compliance Bill is before Parliament, but without government backing, he says, it won't get far. "Every UK business could be a victim of year 2000 litigation instigated by US companies, yet they are being denied a similar remedy against US companies."

☐ Judgments of the superior courts in Scotland willl be put on the Internet, thanks to lobbying from the Society for Computers and the Law. The society's John Sibbald says that at last this will give "free access to this area of the law" and give the Scottish legal system a chance to compete in the global market for legal services.

☐ The Solicitors Pro Bono Group has won a coup: it has persuaded the Attorney-General to encourage government lawyers to take up *pro bono* work. Keen lawyers will be put in touch with appropriate agencies. Details: 0171-929 5601

QUEEN'S COUNSEL — Steuart & Francis







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* Finance Midlands Dealmakers Awards 1998,1997,1996, 1995

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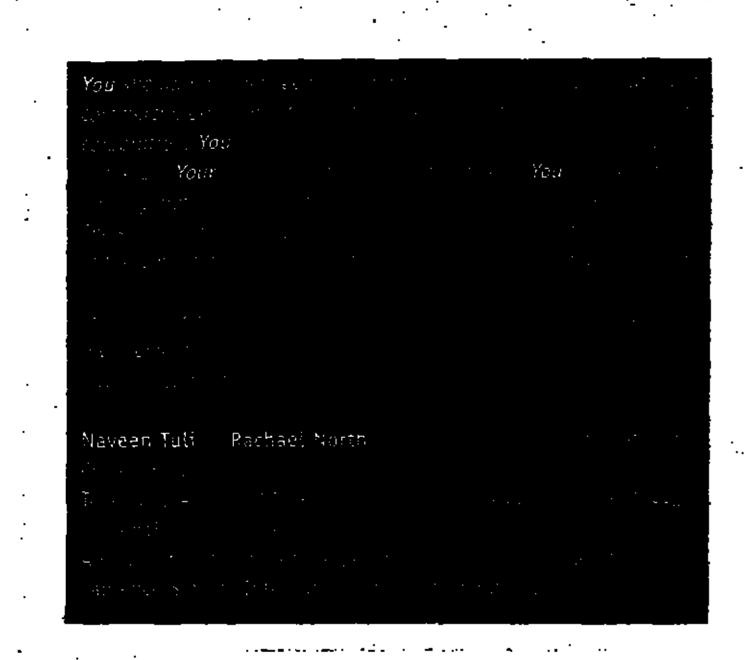


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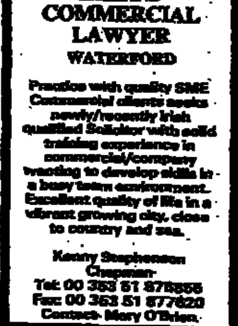
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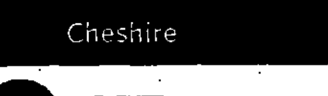
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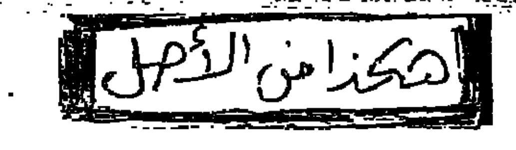
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THE TIMES LAW AWARDS 1998 with ONE ESSEX COURT

Access to justice: who pays?

First prize was awarded to **Mike Thomas** for his essay, below, on how high costs will hinder justice



Winners: the overall victor was Mike Thomas, pictured between Lord Irvine, and Peter Stothard, Editor of *The Times*, and Anthony Grabiner, QC

The cost of civil justice is excessive. In claims of between £12,500 and £25,000, average costs range from 40 to 95 per cent of the claim value and in lower value claims the costs consistently represent more than 100 per cent of the claim value. Disproportionate costs are not only inefficient but also discriminate against those with fewer resources by deterring both the poor and the risk-averse from litigating. Making the ability to vindicate rights dependent upon wealth undermines equality before the law. The withdrawal of legal aid precipitates the problem of how the price of litigation undertaken by those with limited resources is to be paid, or more accurately "underwritten", since costs are payable only on defeat.

Conditional fees are the solution of Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, to the problem of funding access to justice. Under such an arrangement, the lawyer charges her client only if the case is won, and when cases are won a success fee is charged. However, even with conditional fees, the high costs payable in the event of a loss will continue to deter the poor and risk-averse from litigating.

On losing, the client remains liable for all of her opponent's costs and her own disbursements. The proposals that the client insures against these costs encounters the problem that in a system of high and unpredictable costs insurance is commensurately expensive — it costs £8,000 to insure against bringing medical negligence claims to trial.

Introducing a conditional fee system without reducing the cost of litigation merely transfers the problem of excessive costs deterring litigation from plaintiffs to their lawyers and achieves nothing. The success fee's function is to compensate the lawyer for those cases that he loses. In our system, costs are high, relative to the claim, so any success fee recovered, capped at 25 per cent of the award, will be small relative to the costs incurred. If costs equal three quarters of the value of the claim, then a lawyer litigating similar claims must win three quarters of cases to "break even".

Unless the costs of litigating are reduced or lawyers are prepared to earn less, only very strong claims will obtain access to justice. Solicitors have already been advised that "conditional fee medical negligence work should not be touched with a bargepole".

The acid test for conditional fees is not whether they work in cases where the risk of non-recovery is low (and the cost in legal aid has been small), but whether they can bring claims less certain of success into the system. The bottom line is profit: the attractiveness of a case depends upon the potential fee on success balanced against the risk of non-recovery and the amount of investment necessary in bringing the claim.

In America it seems that claims where success is not guaranteed are litigated but higher damages offer greater rewards. In our system lower awards make uncertain claims less attractive, especially those for smaller sums where the costs are increasingly disproportionate. To increase damages is inefficient, so to facilitate access to justice we must decrease the cost of litigation.

> Only very strong claims will be taken on

The hourly rate will continue alongside conditional fees. Defence lawyers have obvious difficulties in operating conditional fee arrangements and will continue to work on hourly rates, as in America. Further, a plaintiff's ability to come to court is fundamental to the rule of law and cannot be dependent upon her finding a lawyer prepared to work on a conditional fee basis. Justice is not concerned only with money: the vindication of rights has its own value. Actions where money is not claimed — for example, applications for judicial review or actions to compel due administration of a trust — are less amenable to conditional fees. The costs of litigation must therefore be cut to enable those dependent on hourly fees to obtain access to justice. Conversely, only appropriate procedures must be allowed in order to prevent rich defendants gaining an unfair advantage by investing disproportionate amounts on an hourly rate while the plaintiff's lawyer is trying to work efficiently on a conditional fee basis.

The success fee compensates lawyers for representing unsuccessful plaintiffs; as the new price of access to justice, it raises the question of who should ultimately pay it. If success fees are deducted from damages, then successful plaintiffs are subsidising access to justice and the system is failing to provide full compensation and to protect rights fully. The Lord Chancellor accordingly proposes that success fees be recoverable as costs from the defendant.

One contrary argument is that if the plaintiff chooses to opt for a conditional fee arrangement through impecuniosity such losses are not recoverable. Nevertheless, the Lord Chancellor's proposal is preferable: wrongs give rise to a duty to make full compensation and the plaintiff should receive this provided he acts reasonably in bringing his action. Those defendants wrongfully denying liability and forcing the plaintiff to litigate to recover his due should have to pay for the steps the plaintiff must reasonably take. Making wrongdoers pay more also provides a greater deterrent to adhere to the norms of behaviour required by law.

Further, it is better to give plaintiffs full compensation explicitly than to achieve this by distorting the law of damages to take account of irrecoverable costs, as is apparently practice in America.

The expansion of conditional fee arrangements is inevitable and is to be welcomed as it encourages efficiency in order to secure a reasonable return for time invested. However, conditional fees can only succeed in securing access to justice if the costs of litigation are reduced and conditional fees alone will not achieve this.

Until costs are reduced, many good cases will remain insufficiently attractive to be undertaken on a conditional fee basis, with the result that, where the taxpayer is unable to underwrite the price of access to justice, society will suffer the cost of individual rights and collective behavioural norms going unenforced.

Words of praise from Irvine

The big prizes and a special award: **Frances Gibb** reports

The success of legal reforms in which lawyers can take on most disputes over money or damages on a "no win, no fee" basis depends on the cost of litigation being reduced, the Lord Chancellor said last week.

Lord Irvine of Lairg was quoting from the winning essay in the 1998 *Times* Law Awards competition, written by Mike Thomas, a student at University College, Oxford. Mr Thomas won the top prize of £3,000 from more than 150 entries in the competition, held with the One Essex Court chambers of Anthony Grabiner, QC.

Lord Irvine said that most of the shortlisted essays concentrated on how the availability of legal aid affected access to justice. But as the Minister responsible for delivering that access, he had to look at a broader picture, including the courts, judiciary and providers of legal services in the voluntary sector.

The Government's reforms went wider than legal aid. The first phase of its civil justice reform programme takes effect from April. Lord Irvine said. "These reforms will unify, simplify and speed up court procedures and protocols, to deliver justice directed towards the needs of court users," he added.

The reform was not just about a new set of rules. It would mean a new culture, where "proportionality is the key to pursuing just dispute resolution".

The reforms also demonstrated how wider costs than legal aid were involved. "Judges have been working through a demanding programme of training, to enable them to fulfil their unprecedented new case management responsibilities."

> Lord Irvine led the judging team

Lord Irvine, who presented the prizes at a reception at Lincoln's Inn, headed the judging team, which included Lord Browne-Wilkinson, the senior law lord, Mr Grabiner and Susanna Fitzgerald, a member of his chambers, and Peter Stothard, the Editor of *The Times*. The topic for essays in this year's competition was: *Access to justice — who pays the price?*

The second prize of £2,000 went to Sarah Palin, of West London, who is training to be a barrister at the Inns of Court School of Law, and the third prize of £1,000 to Suzana Sava, a Romanian student studying law at the London School of Economics.

The three runners-up who received £250 each were David Lewis, Andrea Markham and Alastair Ladkin. A special prize of £100 was awarded to Rachael Levene, 17, a pupil at Nottingham High School for Girls.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Wakefield banking on survival

By Christopher Irvine

THEY were taking the floodlights down at Belle Vue yesterday, which looked an ominous sign, but it was to replace dud bulbs. Crumbling terraces are being patched up and Wakefield Trinity Wildcats, who qualify already as the biggest mouthful in the JJB Super League, are as ready as they can be for their re-entry to the top flight on Sunday.

The compromise of having two nicknames sums up the problem of being caught twixt the old and new at Wakefield, a founding member of the Northern Union in 1895. Do supporters shout for "Trinity", "Wildcats" or plain old "Wakey"? More worryingly, will there be a team to support after what is widely seen as a make-or-break season?

Andy Kelly, the Wakefield coach and one of the few recognisable faces left after an overhaul that was designed to ensure competitiveness, is under no illusions. "The first target has to be survival," he said. "That's vital not only to the players and me as coach, but to the club's existence." Sainsbury's has faith. Yesterday, the supermarket chain announced a joint sponsorship over two years in a £600,000 deal with a local shopping centre.

Wakefield's fellow Super League clubs, who each receive £750,000 annually under their revised television contract, have left them to get by on £575,000 from their former first division colleagues and the Rugby Football League (RFL). Wakefield are at a further disadvantage. As things stand, they will receive no television income from 2000 if they remain in the Super League, a situation that highlights the difficulties associated with their promotion.

When the independent franchise panel granted Wakefield's application in November — their right after winning the 1998 first division championship — Super League clubs were not leaping for joy at the prospect of welcoming a club where time had stood still.

Wakefield's opening fixture is away to Castleford Tigers. The last time they met, at the height of the Super League mergers debacle in 1995, Castleford won by a record 86-0. It was proposed at the time that Wakefield, Castleford and Featherstone Rovers should amalgamate to form a team called Calder. It never materialised.

Work on Wakefield's proposed new 10,000-capacity stadium at Ossett could start in August, but, as one club official acknowledged, "relegation would set us back two years". Wakefield would have to bounce back immediately and, by then, the Super League could be a closed shop. It places a huge burden on finishing higher than fourteenth.

With experienced players such as Tony Kemp, signed from Leeds Rhinos, Kelly said: "We've gone for depth of character. Players who aren't averse to rolling their sleeves up." That summed up the Wildcats' Silk Cut Challenge Cup exit on Sunday. "Considering Bradford walloped us by 60 points pre-season, we fought well for 70 minutes and lost 26-8," Kelly said. "That's progress in a short time. We'll only improve."



Kelly: character

□ The Lincoln Financial Group is to continue its sponsorship of the Great Britain team in the inaugural Tri-Nations tournament against Australia and New Zealand this autumn.

Throwing away a slice of history

David Powell on a rule change that threatens to erase the exploits of a cherished Olympian

Denise Lewis may just win the heptathlon world championship in Seville this summer. She may even register the highest score of the year, just as she did in 1998, when she won European and Commonwealth titles. If she does, the golden girl of British sport will have more reason than most to stay up until midnight on December 31 to celebrate the millennium.

When the clock strikes 12, Lewis could be the new world record-holder for her event. Whether she would consider it worthy of celebration will depend on how she views the insensitive decision by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) to wipe out Jackie Joyner-Kersee's existing world record at the end of the year.

This is not because, belatedly, Joyner-Kersee has been found guilty of any drugs offence, in the manner of Ben Johnson. After Johnson failed a drugs test at the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, he was not only stripped of the 100 metres gold medal and world record, but, one year later, the IAAF erased the world record that he had set at the 1987 world championships. Joyner-Kersee's record is being dropped for no better reason than a minor alteration to the specifications of the women's javelin.

This is not an unimportant world record, one of the many that are set today, forgotten tomorrow — it is one that was set at an Olympic Games 11 years ago by the most successful woman all-rounder the world has seen. "It is imprudent, although I suppose I could say idiotic, for track and field to remove from the record books one of its most cherished names," Craig Masback, the executive director of USA Track and Field, the sport's governing body in the United States, said.

The significance of the record was emphasised by the attitude of American television at the time. The final event, the 800 metres, was scheduled to take place 15 minutes after NBC went off air, but the channel decided to stay with the action to see if Joyner-Kersee could create history. She duly delivered a score of 7,291 points.



Joyner-Kersee, one of the greatest Olympic competitors of them all, prepares to throw the javelin on her way to rewriting the record books at Seoul in 1988

Performances with the new javelin, with the centre of gravity moved three centimetres forward to allow more regular landings on the tip, will be kept from April 1. The best mark by December 31 will become the new world record from January 1, 2000. The change to the javelin is likely to reduce distances achieved by the best heptathletes by a mere three to four metres, a loss of 50 to 60 points. Had Joyner-Kersee been using the new javelin in Seoul, she would still have scored more than 7,200 points.

As Richard Hymans, the joint-compiler of the IAAF book *Progression of World Best Performances and Official IAAF World Records*, said: "Quite clearly, there is no one around who can score over 7,000 points and yet somebody may be credited with a world record for an inferior performance." Lewis's British record is 6,736 points and, while 7,000 may soon be within range, 7,200 may be beyond her this season.

Masback added: "The way it is being seen by the American public is that here you have one of track and field's all-time greats and some bureaucrats in Monaco have chosen, for their own purposes, to make it so that she is not a world record-holder."

USA Track and Field is planning a protest to the IAAF and, to understand its indignation, think back to Daley Thompson. How would Great Britain have reacted if the same had happened to him? "The bizarre thing here is that Daley Thompson's record was not expunged when the men's javelin specification was changed in 1986," Hymans said. "The only argument I can think they might use is that, in the case of ten events, the proportional effect on the score would be that bit less than on seven events, which is a weak argument." Hymans favours the less drastic measure of revising Joyner-Kersee's score by downgrading old javelin marks by 5 per cent.

> ‘Someone may be credited with a record for an inferior performance’

Nobody disagrees with the need for the new-specification implement and the move has done the women's javelin, as a single event, a huge favour. Rarely these days does a woman manage to throw beyond 70 metres, while the world record stands at 80 metres. That mark, set by Petra Felke in 1988, is one of several left over from the era of institutionalised drug-taking in East German sport.

Furthermore, it is among the records that have prompted Professor Helmut Digel, the German federation president, to set before the IAAF congress next summer a proposal calling for a clean slate on world records from January, 2000. Carl-Gustav Tollemar, chairman of the IAAF technical committee, said that no other world record changes were under discussion — but insisted that the women's javelin had to be altered.

"The 600g [javelin] lands flat and it is hard for the judges to maintain a fair competition," Tollemar said. "With the new javelin, the girls would not be able to break the world record. This makes it fair for today's girls."

But not fair for yesterday's girl. Joyner-Kersee finished second behind Lewis in the world rankings last year and has just retired. When she made that decision, little could she have imagined that her world record would go into retirement with her.

Athletes welcome English centres for elite

By John Goodbody

LEADING British competitors yesterday hailed the Government's launch of a £160 million regional network of sports facilities.

England will have ten centres, plus one in Sheffield for sports medicine and research, to help realise a projected tally of 41 medals for Great Britain, including eight gold, at the 2004 Olympic Games. The ten English centres are: Bath, Southampton, Crystal Palace, Bisham Abbey, Bedford, Loughborough/Nottingham, Lilleshall, Sheffield, Manchester and Gateshead. Similar centres are being set up in other parts of the United Kingdom.

Paul Palmer, who won a swimming silver medal in the 400 metres freestyle at the Atlanta Games, is training already at Bath, where a training village was opened in 1997. He said: "Before, I was doing it despite the system, but at Bath the elite can get the necessary backing in physiology, psychology and sports medicine."

The network will be linked to the world-class performance programme, which has provided £30 million over the past 18 months to fund competitors. Speaking yesterday from Australia, where he is training, Darren Campbell, the European 100 metres champion, said: "The backing has enabled me to train full-time and helped me go the European championships last year in the best shape I could be."

The facilities, funded by the National Lottery, will allow competitors to train close to their homes, rather than many of them living at one enormous site, as had been envisaged by John Major, when he announced the scheme in 1995.

However, the Conservative party said yesterday that the announcement was a "classic example of too little, too late". Peter Ainsworth, the Shadow Culture Secretary, said: "We are not hankering after the original vision. However, so much time has passed and the announcement will be of no value before the next Olympics. This is a national project to win gold medals. The Government has a key role to play, but there is no direction and leadership."

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

In the United States they take the matter of masterpoints (those little pieces of paper you win when you do well in duplicate tournaments) rather more seriously than we do over here. Paul Soloway, one of the top American players, has recently achieved the notable milestone of 50,000 masterpoints, the first person in the history of the American game to do so. Soloway, a bridge professional, is an outstanding player and has recently started up a partnership with world number one, Bob Hamman. So far everything they have touched has turned to gold and apparently Soloway has not yet learned Hamman's system.

Over the next three days I will feature some fine plays by Soloway:

Dealer West **N-S game** **Teams**

North: ♠ 3 ♡ 10 2 ◇ K 10 8 6 3 ♣ A Q 10 9 3

West: ♠ J 10 8 6 5 2 ♡ Q 8 ◇ A 7 2 ♣ 8 2

East: ♠ Q 9 7 ♡ J 7 6 5 4 3 ◇ J 5 ♣ K 7

South: ♠ A K 4 ♡ A K 9 ◇ Q 9 4 ♣ J 6 5 4

S	W	N	E
–	2 S (weak)	Pass	3 S
3 NT	Pass	4 S	Pass
5 C	All Pass		

Contract: Five Clubs by South. Lead: two of clubs.

The play in Five Clubs on a spade lead would be challenging. A careful declarer would draw trumps and then play off the hearts first in order to get a count of the side-suits. On this occasion he would discover that West had three diamonds to East's two and would thus play West to hold the jack.

Soloway actually got a trump lead, however, and this gave him an alternative line of play. Taking the view that the lead marked East with the king of clubs, Soloway rose with the ace and eliminated both major suits before exiting with a second trump. East won his king of clubs and had to open up diamonds or concede a ruff and discard.

Even if East had had a trump to exit with after taking his king, Soloway would have not been in a worse position than the other declarers – but a singleton trump is not often an attractive opening lead.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Chasing pack

Garry Kasparov, the world champion, enjoys a half-point lead over the chasing pack of Anand and Kramnik in the elite tournament at Linares in Spain. Both of these fine players have now opened their scores with victories against Peter Svidler and Michael Adams. I give these games today.

White: Viswanathan Anand
Black: Peter Svidler
Linares 1999

Grunfeld Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	g6
3	Nc3	d5
4	Nf3	Bg7
5	Qb3	dxc4
6	Qxc4	0-0
7	e4	a6
8	e5	b5
9	Qb3	Nfd7
10	h4	c5
11	e6	c4
12	Qd1	Nb6
13	exf7+	Rxf7
14	h5	Nc6
15	hxg6	hxg6
16	Be3	Bf5
17	Ng5	Rf6
18	g4	Be6
19	Nce4	Bd5
20	Qd2	Rd6
21	f3	Bxe4
22	fxe4	Nd7
23	Qh2	Nf8
24	e5	Rd7
25	Ne6	Qa5+
26	Bd2	Nxe5
27	Be2	c3
28	Bxc3	b4
29	Nxg7	bxc3
30	Qh8+	Kf7
31	Rf1+	Black resigns

White: Vladimir Kramnik
Black: Michael Adams
Linares 1999

Nimzo-Indian Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	e6
3	Nc3	Bb4
4	Qc2	0-0
5	a3	Bxc3+
6	Qxc3	b6
7	Bg5	Bb7
8	f3	h6
9	Bh4	d5
10	e3	Nbd7
11	cxd5	Nxd5
12	Bxd8	Nxc3
13	Bh4	Nd5
14	Bf2	c5
15	Bb5	N5f6
16	Ne2	a6
17	Ba4	cxd4
18	Nxd4	Nc5
19	Bc2	e5
20	Nf5	Rfd8
21	Bh4	Nd3+
22	Ke2	Nxb2
23	Rhb1	Nc4
24	Bd3	Nd6
25	Nxh6+	Kf8
26	Bxf6	gxf6
27	Rxb6	Bc8
28	Rc1	Be6
29	Rcc6	Ke7
30	e4	Nb5
31	Ke3	Nxa3
32	Nf5+	Kf8
33	Bxa6	Rd1
34	Be2	Ra1
35	Rb2	Rd8
36	h4	Nb1
37	Kf2	Nd2
38	Rd6	Black resigns

Diagram of final position Anand-Svidler game

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by e-mail. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from *Times* readers will be published either here or in the Saturday *Times* Weekend column.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ABA
a. The Phoenician alphabet
b. An extinct desert bird
c. A sack

GABOON
a. A small baboon
b. A foresail
c. A wood

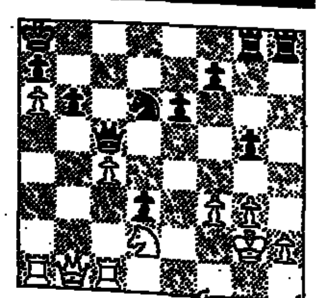
BURTON
a. A hat
b. Stowage of luggage
c. A Western pistol

GALERE
a. A kitchen range
b. A coterie
c. A breed of carthorse

Answers on page 49

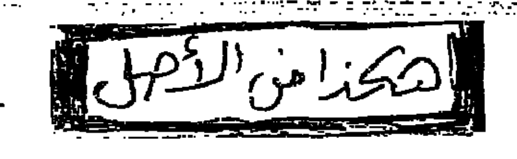
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene



Black to play. This position is from the game Marzano — Van der Werf, Porto San Giorgio 1998. White's pieces find themselves in a cluster on the queenside, well away from the defence of his king. Unsurprisingly, Black now delivered a quick checkmate. Can you see how?

Solution on page 49



RACING: BHB TO REVIEW WEIGHT-FOR-AGE ALLOWANCES FOR CHASERS

Youngsters face scales of justice

By Chris McGrath

SHORT of offering them use of a special ramp over the fences and conveyor belts in between, it is hard to imagine how five-year-old chasers might be more grossly favoured than by the present weight-for-age scale.

There was an especially ridiculous example at Kempton on Saturday, when the Mistsubishi Shogun Pendil Novices' Chase was reduced to a mismatch by the 22lb that Makounji received from No Retreat, 9lb of which was supposed to compensate for her junior status. Yesterday, however, the British Horseracing Board (BHB) disclosed that such an exorbitant concession is unlikely to be available next season.

The problem has arisen because of an increasing vogue for French jumpers. Trainers tend to educate young horses with considerably more purpose over the Channel, ensuring that French imports are correspondingly more precocious than their indigenous rivals. The latter might well prove better off in terms of racecourse longevity, but to begin with the French novices can know too many tricks for them.

Martin Pipe, always one jump ahead, was first to spot the opportunity for French horses, making hay last season with Cyfor Malta. This time he has excellent prospects of matching that horse's Cheltenham Festival success with Majadou, unbeaten on these shores, while Nicky Henderson, Makounji's trainer, is among those rivals to have registered the significance of Pipe's success.

The French factor has helped prompt a review of the whole National Hunt weight-for-age scale by Nigel Gray, the senior BHB handicapper, and Phil Smith, recently appointed to rate chasers. Paul Greeves, the BHB racing director, observed yesterday that no assumptions could be made about their recommendations, but acknowledged that there was a powerful impetus for change.

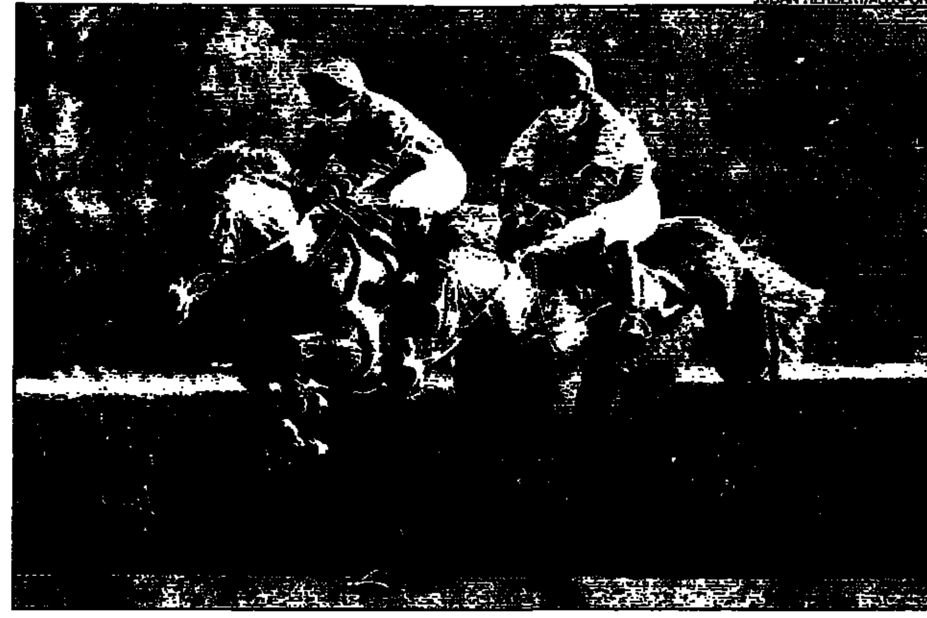
"The dilemma remains," he said. "The idea is to encourage people to bring along store horses, to race their young, immature horses without breaking their hearts or backs. The problem is that horses in Britain and Ireland tend to be rather different from those coming out of France, where they tend to be already well raced.

"In setting a weight-for-age scale, the question is how to take account of the form these horses have shown early in life without having a detrimental effect on the more traditional, slower maturing types. The high-profile example of horses like Makounji — who got all the allowances on Saturday, including the mares' allowance — is there for all to see. There is clearly a need to re-examine the scale before next season."

It is plainly unacceptable for a horse like No Retreat, second to Makounji on Saturday, to compete at such a ludicrous disadvantage. Steve Brookshaw, his trainer, must have been delighted that his New Zealand import managed to accompany the mare into the straight and he will surely win good races restored to a level playing field.

Brookshaw has rather less cause for satisfaction, however, with Lord Gyllene. The 1997 Martell Grand National winner will miss the Cheltenham Festival after pulling a muscle at exercise, and may now be forced to limber up for Aintree by having a race over hurdles.

JULIAN HERBERT/ALLSPORT



Majadou, right, one of Pipe's French imports, will be a popular order at Cheltenham

RACING AHEAD

Robert Wright suggests the best value in the ante-post market

TOTE CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP
Cheltenham, March 18

GUIDE TO THE LEADING PRICES

	Coral	Hills	Ladbrokes	Tote
Teeton Mill	11-4	11-4	5-2	11-4
Florida Pearl	5-2	11-4	5-2	5-2
Dorans Pride	8-1	8-1	8-1	8-1
Escartefigue	8-1	8-1	7-1	9-1
Double Thriller	8-1	7-1	7-1	8-1
Unsinkable Boxer	12-1	14-1	16-1	14-1
Suny Bay	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1
See More Business	20-1	25-1	25-1	20-1
Hanakham	25-1	33-1	25-1	33-1
Simply Dashing	33-1	33-1	25-1	16-1
Cool Dawn	50-1	50-1	40-1	50-1
Go Ballistic	33-1	50-1	40-1	50-1

THE Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup has been billed as a clash between Florida Pearl and Teeton Mill. However, as the past two winners, Mr Mulligan (20-1) and Cool Dawn (25-1) have shown, the outcome of jumping's Blue Riband is rarely so easily predicted.

Florida Pearl, twice a Festival winner already, is clearly a horse of immense talent. The only slight reservation is his stamina, as he found less in the closing stages than had appeared likely when beating Escartefigue in the Royal & SunAlliance Chase over a slightly shorter trip last year.

Teeton Mill has stormed through the ranks since joining Venetia Williams, winning the Hennessy and King George before having enough speed to cope with a shorter trip at Ascot last time. His defeat at the hands of Double Thriller in a hunter chase at Cheltenham last April, when he struggled up the final hill, casts a doubt over his credentials.

Double Thriller may also have improved for a switch to a professional yard, moving to Paul Nicholls from his owner, Reg Wilkins, but hung badly on fast ground when beaten at Stratford last May. His supporters may be best to wait and see if the Cheltenham going is suitable.

See More Business, also trained by Nicholls, started second favourite in last years renewal but was forced off the track by Cyborgo, who was pulled up early on. Winner of the King George last season, he has disappointed of late, but was unsuited by the slow early pace when third to Cyfor Malta at Cheltenham last time and connections believe that he failed to cope with heavy ground at Kempton on his penultimate start. Reportedly back in good form now, **SEE MORE BUSINESS** is over-priced at 25-1 with Hills and Ladbrokes and warrants each-way support.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Newcastle

Going: soft (heavy in places)

2.00 (2m hdle) 1, **Petras** (B Harding, 6-1); 2, Ravue (3-1), 3, Caus (4-1) Sillymore (4th) 5-2 fav 20 ran. NR: Chevalier Errant, Dalton Lady 1¼, 21l. M Hammond Tote £7.20; £2 40, £1.80, £2.60 DF. £16 00. CSF. £22 06

2.30 (2m 4f ch) 1, **Weaver George** (R McGrath, 5-1); 2, Maitre De Musique (4-1 jt-fav), 3, Fen Terrier (10-1) Rachael's Owen 4-1 jt-fav 9 ran. NR: Corston Joker, Cross Cannon 11l, 16l. W Storey Tote £7.00. £2 00, £1 70, £3 00 DF. £17.90. CSF £24 77 Tricast: £179.75

3.00 (2m hdle) 1, **Western General** (A Maguire, 15-2), 2, Be Brave (5-1), 3, Durano (9-2 fav), 4, Court Joker (6-1) 19 ran NR Priddy Fair 2l, 1¼l Miss K Milligan Tote: £10 80, £2 30, £1 60, £1 60, £3 10 DF £36 50 Trifecta £188 00 CSF £44 60 Tricast £184 83

3.30 (3m ch) 1, **Toni's Tip** (A Maguire, 13-8 fav), 2, Last Option (5-1), 3, Master Wood (9-1) 6 ran NR Act The Wag, Gale Force 5l, 4l F Murphy Tote. £1 90, £1 60, £1 40 DF £3 90 CSF £9 66 Tricast £49 81

4.00 (3m hdle) 1, **Attadale** (A Dobbin, 11-2), 2, Misty Class (9-1), 3, Charlie Banker (15-2) The Bullorwick Kid 3-1 jt-fav 7 ran. 3l, 11l. A Dicken Tote £9 00, £3 10, £2 20 DF £25 70 CSF £45 64

4.35 (2m 4f ch) 1, **Distant Hills** (A Maguire, 6-4 fav), 2, Up For Ransome (7-2), 3, Charming Moss (33-1) 5 ran NR Dan de Man, Judicious Charlie 18l, 3½l J Dodds Tote. £2 10; £1 10, £2.20 DF £3 20 CSF £6 19

5 05 (2m flat) 1, **Wynyard Dancer** (P Niven, 2-1), 2, Shuildante (5-1) 3, Lady Busted (7-4 fav) 13 ran. NR. Early Daisy, Fireside Girl 6l, hd Mrs M Reveley Tote £3 80, £1 40, £2 10, £1 10 DF £9 60 CSF: £11 68.

Jackpot: £15,842.70 (part won. Pool of £20,082.42 carried forward to Catterick today).

Placepot: £96.00. Quadpot: £23.30.

Plumpton

Going: soft (heavy in places)

2.20 (2m 1f hdle) 1, **Wise Gunner** (A P McCoy 11-2), 2, Anns Girl (13-8 fav) 3 Marylin Magic (11-2) 11 ran NR Temujin, Young Mazaad 5l, 14l M Pipe Tote £6 70; £1 90, £1 10, £1 60 DF £8 70 CSF £14 19

2.50 (2m 4f hdle) 1, **Polar Flight** (N Williamson, 1-2 fav) 2, The Red Rector (8-1) 3, Gemstone (3-1) 13 ran NR Aluna 5l, 11l Miss V Williams Tote £1 50, £1 10, £1.50, £1 30 DF £4 50 CSF £5 52

3.20 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, **Emerald Statement** (B Fenton, 2-1), 2, Woodlands Beau (5-1) 3, Edge Ahead (40-1) Strong Tel 4-6 fav 4 ran 6l, dist C Gnssell Tote £2 40 DF £3 40 CSF £10 09

3.50 (2m 1f hdle) 1, **It's Wallace** (M Batchelor, 6-1), 2, Nessun Doro (13-2), 3, Doctor Bravious (11-4 fav) 7 ran. 4l, 6l Julian Poulton Tote £5 80; £3 50, £3 60 DF £16 80 CSF £35 32

4.25 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, **Calleva Star** (Mr J D Moore, 4-1), 2, Solcolmo (3-1) 3, Kilmington (8-1) Garrison Friendly (fell) 7-4 fav 6 ran NR Whippers Delight ¾l, 9l R Alner Tote £4 80, £1 70, £2 10 DF £7 60 CSF £14 73

4.55 (2m 4f hdle) 1, **My Tern** (A P McCoy, 7-2), 2, Royal Ruler (5-1) 3, Derrybelle (9-2) Golden Lily 3-1 fav 7 ran 12l, 4l L Wells. Tote £4 10 £2 50, £1 80 DF £8 50 CSF £18 53.

Placepot: £246.30. Quadpot: £54.40.

Southwell

Going: standard

1.40 (7f) 1, **Denbrae** (Mrs L Pearce, 5-1), 2, Almazhar (12-1), 3, Gadge (6-1) Ring The Chief 100-30 fav 11 ran. ¾l, 1¼l J Pearce Tote £8 10, £2 50, £4 40, £2 00. DF. £47 10 CSF. £80 51 Tricast £351 73

2.10 (7f) 1, **Live Project** (Miss Nicola Craggs, 5-1), 2, Awesome Venture (13-2), 3, Kosovo (6-1) Kass Alhawa 7-4 fav 10 ran Hd, 1¼l R Craggs Tote £5.00; £2.00, £1 40, £1 40. DF £22 50 CSF. £32 57 Tricast. £185.42

2.40 (1m) 1 **Irish Cream** (T G McLaughlin, 1-16 fav), 2, Sounds Lucky (10-1). 2 ran. 4l P Evans. Tote. £1 10

3.10 (1m) 1, **Windshift** (P Fitzsimons, 4-1). 2, Magical Shot (11-2) 3, Jibereen (9-2) Anonym (5th) 7-2 fav 8 ran 1¼l, 1¼l D Shaw Tote £3.30 £1 40, £1 40, £1 70 DF £21 30 CSF £24 19 Tricast £94 15

3.40 (6f) 1, **Nite Owler** (J Edmunds, 9-2). 2, Kalar (10-1), 3, Rock Island Line (5-1). Little Tom 7-2 fav 11 ran 1¼l, nk. J Balding Tote £4 60; £1.50, £4 40, £1 20 DF £38 50 CSF £42 91. Tricast £214 71

4.10 (1m 4f) 1, **Lines-G** (A Culhane 5-1). 2, Chakapun (11-4). 3, Heathyards Jake (evens fav) 6 ran. 5l, 1l Mrs M Reveley Tote £5 70; £1 90, £1 10 DF £7 70 CSF. £16.87

4.45 (6f) 1, **Strat's Quest** (S Whitworth, 4-1), 2, Ice Age (11-1); 3, Chalice (7-2 jt-fav) Ramsey Hope 7-2 jt-fav 11 ran Hd, 2½l D Arbuthnot. Tote. £5 60; £1 50, £3 60, £1 80 DF £28.00, CSF £45 73 Tricast £160 34

5.15 (1m 3f) 1, **Green Bopper** (C Lowther, evens fav), 2, Swift (13-2), 3, Dick Turpin (4-1) 7 ran ¾l, 1¼l G Woodward Tote £1 60, £1 10, £3 50 DF £6.60 CSF £7 30

Placepot: £83.50. Quadpot: £13.70.

CATTERICK

THUNDERER

2.00 Misconduct
2.30 Willyelkra
3.00 **BANKER COUNT** (nap)
3.30 Connel's Croft
4.00 Highfield Gent
4.30 Minster Glory
5.00 Errand Boy

Timekeeper's top rating: 4.00 **SHARDANTE**.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

2.00 WENSLEY MARES ONLY NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,374: 2m) (15 runners)

101 4-3213 MY DESPERADO 10 (BF,CD,G) (W Smith) L Lloyd-James 6-12-0 Mr C R Weaver (7) 78
102 04/F4P SUPREME TARGET 17 (S Ramsey & Partners) J Charlton 7-11-2 B Storey 44
103 4-63P5 TANGSHAN 17 (Mrs S Thomson Jones) Mrs D Haine 5-10-11 S Durack 68
104 6S0232 BACK TO BAVARIA 5 (No Vowl Syndicate) F J John Bowles (Ire) 5-10-10 F J Flood –
105 0/20P- CAROL AGAIN 11F (J Lumsden) N Bycroft 7-10-8 G F Ryan (3) –
106 345350 CRUZ SANTA 33 (D Rimmer & S Paisley) M Chapman 6-10-8 W Worthington 83
107 03P/ LITTLE KENNY 832 (V) (Vizard Racing) R J Price 6-10-5 A Dobbin –
108 0061 MISCONDUCT 6 (S) (Playmates) Mrs M Jones 5-10-4 (7ex) A Maguire [illegible]
109 000 THE GREY BAY 17 (Mrs S McDonald) Mrs M Reveley 7-10-3 G Lee –
110 UU20FP MADGE MCSPLASH 14 (D,S) (Mr & Mrs J Davenport) J Jefferson 7-10-3 L Wyer 82
111 U6P0 FRECKLES 5 (P Axon) M Ryan 4-10-2 P McCabe 39
112 65-602 ALIMERJAM 62 (V) (G Hall) Mrs N Macauley 5-10-0 Mr R Forristal (5) 68
113 00/00P SINGING SCALLY 54 (S Adams) W Clay 8-10-0 G Tormey 29
114 6003 ALL OUR BLESSINGS 17 (B) (Middleham Park) Mrs A Swinbank 4-10-0 J Supple 34
115 PP00 PREMIERE FOULEE 53 (B Woodward) F Jordan 4-10-0 A S Smith –

Long handicap: Alimerjam 9-12, Singing Scally 9-10, All Our Blessings 9-10, Premiere Foulee 9-4.

BETTING: 5-4 Misconduct, 4-1 Back To Bavaria, 5-1 My Desperado, 8-1 Alimerjam, 10-1 Tangshan, Cruz Santa, 12-1 The Grey Bay, 25-1 others

1998: SPRINGFIELD RHYME 7-10-0 Mr S Durack (50-1) S Gollings 11 ran

FORM FOCUS: My Desperado 8l 3rd of 20 to Chief Wardance in novice hurdle at Newcastle (3m, good to soft), previously beat Colmaram 1½l in 14-runner mares novice hurdle at Catterick (2m, good) with Tangshan (17lb better off) 26l 5th and The Grey Bay (25lb better off) 87l 12th. Back To Bavaria 9l 2nd of 11 to Really Chuffed in handicap hurdle at Thurles (3m, heavy). Cruz Santa 19l 7th of 13 to Shannon Shoon in novice handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, soft). Misconduct beat Keny s Oats 21l in 16-runner novice handicap hurdle at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, soft). Freckles 38l 7th of 21 to Nouveau Cheval in mares maiden hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good). Alimerjam 15l 2nd of 15 to Baxton Scampo in selling handicap hurdle at Stratford (2m 110yd, heavy)

MISCONDUCT won with great authority last time and can follow up

2.30 HARROGATE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,915: 2m) (15 runners)

201 3/3121 ES GO 28 (CD,G,S) (P Beston-Brown) R Bastiman 6-12-0 H Bastiman (3) 73
202 -06160 BAWARA 14 (S) (R Robson) L Lungo 5-11-7 R Supple 86
203 015000 WILLYELKRA 52 (D,S) (L Bowles) F J John Bowles (Ire) 7-11-7 F J Flood –
204 4132S0 MELDRUM PARK 46 (C,F) (Mrs M Byrne) F Murphy 6-11-2 A Maguire [illegible]
205 0 BEHARI 17 (J Turner) J Turner 5-11-0 T Reed –
206 P04-03 CANADIAN FANTASY 60 (Mrs R Ivey & Mrs V Ward) Mrs V Ward 5-11-0 R Thornton 57
207 04 GWESPYR 28 (Mrs A Smith) Miss K Milligan 6-11-0 F Leahy 34
208 MOVING ARROW 136F (Three County Partnership) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-0 P Niven –
209 PAINT IT BLACK 10F (M Scaife) Mrs A Swinbank 6-11-0 J Supple –
210 0540 THE LAMBTON WORM 32 (C Allison) N Bycroft 5-11-0 G F Ryan (3) 76
211 P0 UNITUS 8F (B Brown) M Chapman 6-11-0 W Worthington 34
212 5- WILD HADEER 295 (Mrs D Upson) J Upson 5-11-0 B Grattan (3) 59
213 0-P WRANGEL 63 (Lady Lloyd Webber) J FitzGerald 5-11-0 A P McCoy –
214 ACADEMY 74F (A Turnell) A Turnell 4-10-6 A Dobbin –
215 0 PARLEZ MOI D'AMOUR 13 (D Smith) D Smith 4-10-1 L Wyer –

BETTING: 7-4 Moving Arrow, 9-4 Es Go, 7-1 Willyelkra, 10-1 Bawara, Meldrum Park, Canadian Fantasy, 16-1 Wrangel, 25-1 others

1998: COUNT KARMUSKI 6-11-0 P Carberry (6-4 fav) F Murphy 10 ran

FORM FOCUS: ES GO beat Lead Dancer 13l in 9-runner novice hurdle at Musselburgh (2m, good) with Gwespyr (7lb better off) 24l 4th. Bawara 57l 12th of 15 to Murasami in novice handicap hurdle at Sedgefield (2m 1f, good). Willyelkra 30l 9th of 30 to Good Lad in handicap hurdle at Leopardstown (3m, heavy). Canadian Fantasy 8¾l 3rd of 12 to Dig For Gold in novice handicap hurdle at Catterick (2m, good to soft). Moving Arrow inconsistent handicapper around a mile on Flat. The Lambton Worm 29l 12th of 17 to Reggie Buck in novice handicap hurdle at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good to soft). Unitus 38l 7th of 13 to Fern's Governor in novice hurdle at Ludlow (2m, good). Wild Hadeer 26l 5th of 11 to Shithrah in selling hurdle at Towcester (2m, good to firm). Parlez Moi D'Amour 34l 9th of 14 to Abingdon in 4yo novice hurdle at Musselburgh (2m, good to firm)

ES GO could defy the weight in a race where a number have stamina doubts

3.00 MALTON NOVICES CHASE (£2,980: 2m 3f) (14 runners)

301 13-301 CHARMING ADMIRAL 8 (B,D,S) (Old Spice Girls) Mrs A Swinbank 6-11-8 J Supple 95
302 /1-P22 BANKER COUNT 24 (F) (Mrs H Brown) M W Easterby 7-11-2 A P McCoy [illegible]
303 21-UP5 ECHO'S OF DAWN 17 (S) (Middleham Park Racing XVII) J Upson 7-11-2 R Supple 81
304 40-4P FAN D'ESTRUVAL 59 (R Ogden) M Todhunter 6-11-2 B Harding –
305 0/346- JUST NED 339P (Miss V Peel) J Haldane 3-11-2 B Storey –
306 PP0-00 MARCHANT MING 43 (G,S) (Miss V Mallaieu) H Alexander 7-11-2 R McGrath –
307 -44POP MENALDI 75 (J Wade) J Wade 9-11-2 A S Smith 55
308 0-0305 ONYOUROWN 28 (F,S) (G Bea) J Howard Johnson 6-11-2 C McCormack (3) 58
309 11/RU PRIME STYLE 724P (F,G) (Norman Manners) J Howard Johnson 10-11-2 D Parker –
310 P0404P TALATHATH 10 (D,F,G,S) (J Curtis) J Curtis 7-11-2 W Marston 73
311 45P-50 DRUMDONNA 25 (Mrs M Beaumont) P Beaumont 9-10-11 B Grattan (3) –
312 0PU00P FAUSTINLUCE LADY 24 (S) (W Smith) W Smith 10-10-11 S Taylor 33
313 /65310 JESSOLLE 43 (BF,F,G) (C Reel) N Richards 7-10-11 A Dobbin 61
314 0-0003 BRAVE MAN 38 (S Curtis) J Curtis 5-10-7 G Tormey –

BETTING: 11-10 Banker Count, 11-4 Jessolle, 7-2 Charming Admiral, 14-1 Onyourown, 16-1 Echo's Of Dawn, 20-1 Brave Man, 25-1 Fan D'Estruval, 33-1 others

1998: ROYAL CRIMSON 7-11-2 R Garritty (8-1) M Hammond 9 ran

FORM FOCUS: Charming Admiral beat Bold Action 3½l in 15-runner novice chase at Carlisle (2m 4f 110yd, heavy). Banker Count 5l 2nd of 8 to Niki Dee in novice chase at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft), previously neck 2nd of 4 to Bamburgh Boy in novice chase at Catterick (2m, soft) with Brave Man (1lb worse off) beaten a distance 3rd. Echo's Of Dawn 19l 5th of 8 to Bamburgh Boy in novice chase at Catterick (2m, good). Onyourown 43l 5th of 7 to Bamburgh Boy in novice chase at Musselburgh (2m, good). Drumdonna 47l 14th of 19 to Moonshine Dancer in selling handicap hurdle at Catterick (2m 3f, good). Jessolle 63l 11th of 19 to Memsahib Ofesteem in handicap hurdle at Doncaster (2m 4f, good) with Marchant Ming (18lb worse off) 53l 14th.

BANKER COUNT offers little value but has plenty to recommend him

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rnrs	%
R Fahey	4	14	28.6	A Maguire	3	4	75.0
T Easterby	13	53	24.5	A Dempsey	5	13	38.5
Mrs M Reveley	25	118	21.2	P Niven	24	92	26.1
Mrs A Swinbank	5	24	20.6	L Wyer	11	71	15.5
J FitzGerald	7	38	18.4	N Horrocks	7	46	15.2
T Tate	3	19	15.8	R Supple	11	79	13.9
J Charlton	7	46	15.2	N Hannity	3	24	12.5

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Catterick: 2.00 Alimerjam, All Our Blessings. 3.30 Lanacar Lane. 4.30 Prince Of Saints. **Lingfield Park:** 3.10 My Little Man. 3.40 Sick As A Parrot.

3.30 RIPON SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,262. 2m 3f) (21 runners)

401 -60665 CLAIRESWAN 26 (BF,C,F,G,S) (M Barrett) C Dwyer 7-11-12 M H Naughton (5) 78
402 503144 WYNBURY FLYER 6 (C,S) (Mrs G Seymour) F Murphy 4-11-0 A Maguire 85
403 010-00 MUHTADI 66 (S) (S Clark) S Clark 6-11-0 Miss R Clark (5) 56
404 5P0200 PANDORAS LORD 66 (G Brett) J Wainwright 5-10-13 A Dobbin 83
405 2160P0 KIND PRINCE 32 (S) (Norking Partnership) R Whitaker 7-10-11 R McGrath 93
406 4205 KING'S HUSSAR 8 (V) (White Hart In Hawes Ptnrs) G M Moore 4-10-9 N Hannity (5) 90
407 46F03 PALISANDER 25 (D Teasdale) R Ford 5-10-8 N Horrocks (5) 85
408 44031P JAGO 47 (B,C,S) (E Mangan) M W Easterby 4-10-7 A P McCoy 83
409 22/P26 TIFASI 48 (S) (M S E M Partnership) M Wilkinson 9-10-5 W Marston 39
410 040-00 FORTUNE HOPPER 46 (G) (A Slack) Mrs D Sayer 5-10-0 L Cooper (7) 47
411 00-605 LANACAR LANE 38 (B) (Scotnorth Racing Ltd) Mrs A Swinbank 7-10-0 J Supple 35
412 d25302 PEEP O DAY 112 (S) (A J Lockwood) A J Lockwood 8-10-0 T Siddall (5) 87
413 560 MILL ORCHID 61 (R Meredith) R Fahey 5-10-0 G Lee 64
414 PP6FF/ BIRTHPLACE 18F (S) (J Eyre) J Eyre 9-10-0 C McCormack (3) –
415 446230 CONNEL'S CROFT 40 (V,BF) (BCD Steels Ltd) P Evans 7-10-0 R Thornton 89
416 160000 BRITANNIA MILLS 62 (F,G,S) (D Gould) R J Price 8-10-0 Mr R Forristal (5) [illegible]
417 005-00 DUNSTON HEATH 17 (B Leavy) B Leavy 6-10-0 W Worthington 74
418 0/0560 LORD FREDERICK 40 (D Dutton) W Clay 7-10-0 G Tormey 63
419 245P60 REAL FIRE 25 (F) (M Saunders) M Meagher 5-10-0 R Wilkinson (5) 83
420 -000F0 MEMBERS WELCOME 6 (C,S) (W Tinning) W Tinning 6-10-0 B Storey 64
421 /655-0 ARRANGE A GAME 61 (F) (A McArdle) G Kelly 12-10-0 S Taylor –

Long handicap: Peep O Day 9-13, Mill Orchid 9-13, Birthplace 9-12, Connel's Croft 9-12, Britannia Mills 9-11, Dunston Heath 9-9, Lord Frederick 9-8, Real Fire 9-5, Members Welcome 9-4, Arrange A Game 9-0

BETTING: 5-1 Claireswan, 6-1 Palisander, 7-1 King's Hussar, 8-1 Connel's Croft, 10-1 Wynbury Flyer, Kind Prince, Jago, Tifasi, Peep O Day, 12-1 others.

1998: CRABBIE'S PRIDE 5-10-11 B Guest (7-2 fav) Mrs S Smith 15 ran

FORM FOCUS: Claireswan 24l 5th of 14 to Our Slimbridge in selling handicap hurdle at Towcester (3m 5f, soft). Wynbury Flyer 9½l 4th of 15 to Oversman in selling hurdle at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good) with Members Welcome (18lb better off) 30l 7th. Kind Prince 33l 10th of 17 to Reggie Buck in novice handicap hurdle at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good to soft). King's Hussar 33l 5th of 10 to Court Ordeal in 4yo novice hurdle at Carlisle (2m 1f, heavy). Palisander 7l 3rd of 19 to Moonshine Dancer in selling handicap hurdle at Catterick (2m 3f, good) with Wynbury Flyer (1lb worse off) 7½l 4th and Real Fire (4lb worse off) 44l 12th. Jago pulled up in handicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, heavy), previously beat Monis 3l in 7-runner selling handicap hurdle at Catterick (2m, soft). Fortune Hopper 37l 7th of 13 to Forty Love in selling handicap hurdle at Musselburgh (2m, good to soft). Lanacar Lane a distance 5th of 9 to What A Tale in novice hurdle at Catterick (3m 1f 110yd, soft), previously 47l 7th of 14 to Es Go in maiden hurdle at Catterick (2m, good to soft). Peep O Day ¾l 2nd of 8 to Ruber in selling handicap hurdle at Sedgefield (3m 3f 110yd, good to soft) with Real Fire (1lb worse off) a distance 5th.

PALISANDER is a tentative choice in a difficult race

4.00 BARTON NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,472: 3m 1f 110yd) (16 runners)

501 4/P311 DONNEGALE 17 (B,CD,G,S) (Sir Simon Green) T Tate 7-11-13 Mr J P McNamara (5) 85
502 F50531 I'M THE MAN 28 (D,F,G,S) (A Slack) Mrs E Slack 8-11-6 L Cooper (7) [illegible]
503 2502 AZTEC FLYER 17 (R Meredith) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-2 Mr A Dempsey (3) 59
504 4F-05 TIPPING TINA 77 (D Batey) W Storey 6-11-0 R McGrath 43
505 32-P46 TO-DAY TO-DAY 81 (Mrs S Matthews) L Lungo 6-10-12 R Supple 69
506 4-053U POLAR KING 17 (I Bray) C Thornton 6-10-9 M Foster 80
507 541-05 BRANCH END 75 (F) (Mrs J Straker) J Charlton 7-10-8 B Storey 86
508 524402 SHARDANTE 13 (W Bethell) J Jefferson 6-10-7 A Maguire 93
509 00005- PARTING THE WAVES 346 (J McGrath) T Easterby 6-10-6 L Wyer 60
510 05406 FAIR FINNISH 59 (N Brown) W Clay 5-10-0 G Tormey 44
511 PF5-P0 BOUNDTOHONOUR 90 (P Gormley) J Howard Johnson 7-10-0 C McCormack (3) –
512 3644P CHANSON D'AMOUR 61 (R Stewart) M Hammond 5-10-0 N Horrocks (5) 87
513 0F0-3P HIGHFIELD GENT 87 (E Birks) M Wilkinson 6-10-0 W Marston 74
514 66-600 ANGRY NATIVE 78 (J Wade) J Wade 7-10-0 T Siddall (5) 50
515 0-4560 BONNY RIGG 17 (Roman Wall Racing) L Lungo 7-10-0 W Dowling (5) 41
516 00P00- CEEJAYELL 348 (T B Tarn) G M Moore 6-10-0 J Callaghan –

Long handicap: Boundtohonour 9-11, Chanson D'Amour 9-8, Highfield Gent 9-7, Angry Native 9-3, Bonny Rigg 9-2, Ceejayell 8-12.

BETTING. 9-2 Donnegale, 5-1 Aztec Flyer, Shardante, 6-1 I'm The Man, 8-1 Branch End, 10-1 Polar King, Highfield Gent, 12-1 others.

1998: WHAT JIM WANTS 5-10-12 R McGrath (7-2 fav) J J O'Neill 11 ran

FORM FOCUS: Donnegale beat Aztec Flyer (7lb better off) 5l in 12-runner amateur novice handicap hurdle at Catterick (3m 1f 110yd, good) with Polar King (8lb better off) unseated rider. I'm The Man beat Ruber 2½l in 14-runner handicap hurdle at Musselburgh (3m, good). Tipping Tina 11l 5th of 13 to Swithway in maiden hurdle at Musselburgh (2m 4f, good to firm). To-day To-day 21l 6th of 8 to Cashapleníy in novice handicap hurdle at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good). Branch End 12l 5th of 19 to Cash For Questions in novice hurdle at Catterick (2m 3f, good). Shardante 2l 2nd of 10 to Charlie Banker in novice handicap hurdle at Musselburgh (3m, good to firm). Parting The Waves 27l 5th of 9 to Jonnie's Prospect in novice handicap hurdle at Newcastle (2m 4f, good) with Bonny Rigg (9lb better off) unseated rider. Boundtohonour 41l 13th of 19 to John Bush in novice hurdle at Catterick (2m 3f, good to firm).

SHARDANTE has a sound chance in a competitive contest

4.30 GRETA BRIDGE HANDICAP CHASE (£2,726: 2m) (7 runners)

601 253042 GOLDEN HELLO 55 (D,G,S) (G Shouler) T Easterby 8-12-0 Mr J P McNamara (5) [illegible]
602 1-6FP0 PRINCE OF SAINTS 14 (B,CD,G,S) (J Buzzeo) M Hammond 8-10-12 B Harding 122
603 150202 TAITS CLOCK 75 (B,D,F,G,S) (F Costello) F Murphy 10-10-11 A Maguire 82
604 4-1222 MINSTER GLORY 25 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs P Hartley) M W Easterby 8-10-7 A P McCoy 119
605 0/5542 ZAHID 13 (D,F) (K BOOTH) K BURKE 8-10-6 DOUBTFUL 96
606 203550 TAPATCH 25 (B,D,F,G) (Miss V Foster) M W Easterby 11-10-5 C McCormack (3) 117
607 61U4-P ARTHUR BEE 54 (CD,G) (Mrs D Bousfield) B Bousfield 12-10-0 S Taylor –

Long handicap: Arthur Bee 8-13

BETTING. 5-4 Minster Glory, 3-1 Golden Hello, 4-1 Taits Clock, 11-2 Tapatch, 13-2 Prince Of Saints, 25-1 Arthur Bee

1998: PRINCE OF SAINTS 7-11-3 R Garritty (2-1 fav) M Hammond 6 ran

FORM FOCUS: Golden Hello 7l 2nd of 6 to Kalpete in handicap chase at Musselburgh (2m, good). Prince Of Saints 61l 9th of 10 to Ballesswhidden in handicap chase at Sedgefield (2m 110yd, good). Taits Clock 16l 2nd of 6 to Hag's Way in handicap chase at Catterick (3m 1f 110yd, good). Minster Glory 4l 2nd of 8 to Count Karmuski in handicap chase at Catterick (2m 3f, good) with Tapatch (3lb better off) 28l 7th.

MINSTER GLORY can be rewarded for a series of consistent efforts

5.00 AYSGARTH INTERMEDIATE NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
(£1,525: 2m) (16 runners)

1 005 BACKEND CHARLIE 75 (G Bulmer) B Murray 5-11-4 M H Naughton (5) 71
2 BATTLE CREEK BOY (A Brooke Rankin) Mrs A Swinbank 5-11-4 Mr C Wilson –
3 0 CAMAIR CRUSADER 38 (C German) W McKeown 5-11-4 C McCormack (3) 41
4 COOTEHILL BOY (J Maguire) W Storey 5-11-4 I Jardine (7) –
5 ERRAND BOY (T Hemmings) Mrs S Smith 5-11-4 S Durack –
6 0 LUCKY LAMBRINI 82 (Miss J Eaton) Mrs L Williamson 5-11-4 Mark Smith (7) –
7 203 SUPREME FORTUNE 45 (BF) (Supreme Ptnrs) Mrs Reveley 5-11-4 Mr A Dempsey (3) [illegible]
8 1 IRELAND'S EYE 38 (CD S) (Exam Connection) J Norton 4-11-3 C Rafter (7) 90
9 WHAT A TOPPER (D Clark) G Bravery 5-10-13 Mr J P McNamara (5) –
10 060 CROMWELL 3 (GB Racing) M Chapman 4-10-10 N Hannity (5) 60
11 JUST DESSIE (N Riddell) M Dods 4-10-10 Mr G Coulter –
12 0 NICE BALANCE 33 (C Rosbottom) M Chapman 4-10-10 Mr J Young (7) –
13 ONE FOR ALL (Leigh Musketeer Racing Club) Mrs S Smith 4-10-10 R Wilkinson (5) –
14 2 REGAL ISLAND 38 (Mrs L Bott) N Richards 4-10-10 T Hagger (7) 88
15 REMANTI (J Bickerton) B Leavy 4-10-10 Mr T Gibney (5) –
16 SHADY SUSPECT (WWW Mark-Kilner-Racing) M Hammond 4-10-10 N Horrocks (5) –

BETTING: 5-2 Regal Island, 11-4 Ireland's Eye, 4-1 Errand Boy, 7-1 Supreme Fortune, What A Topper, 8-1 Shady Suspect, 20-1 One For All, 33-1 others.

1998: PETERSEN HOUSE 4-10-10 T Hogg (11-4) G M Moore 9 ran

FORM FOCUS: Backend Charlie 20l 5th of 16 to Native Affair in national hunt flat race at Catterick (2m, good). Errand Boy Ardross gelding out of Love Match. Lucky Lambrini 35l 11th of 12 to Happy Hussar in national hunt flat race at Ludlow (2m, good to soft). Supreme Fortune 9½l 3rd of 17 to Enborne in national hunt flat race at Newcastle (2m, heavy). Ireland's Eye beat Regal Island (7lb better off) 7l in 17-runner maiden national hunt flat at Catterick (2m, soft) with Camair Crusader (11lb better off) 46l 11th. What A Topper Petoski mare, half-sister to Tipping Tim and several other winners. Shady Suspect Shardari gelding out of a useful American mare.

IRELAND'S EYE is taken to confirm course and distance placings with Regal Island

LEICESTER

THUNDERER

2.20 Sister Gale. 2.50 Liver Bird. 3.20 Copperhurst. 3.50 Samuel Wilderspin. 4.20 Strong Vision. 4.50 Boulevard Bay.

GOING: SOFT (HEAVY IN PLACES) SIS

2.20 PICKWELL NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,496: 2m 4f 110yd) (11 runners)

1 25PB REFLEX COURIER 14 J Upson 7-11-13 A Thornton 71
2 4214 CATHERINE'S WAY 60 (S) A Turnell 7-11-5 M A Fitzgerald [illegible]
3 4222 SISTER GALE 25 (G) Mrs S Smith 7-11-2 Mr J Crowley (5) 95
4 004/ RELUCKINO 643 M Wilkinson 3-10-13 S Wynne –
5 2U44 ORIENTAL STYLE 14 (B) G Balding 5-10-12 B Fenton 96
6 0210 FIGHTING TIMES 15 (V,F,S) Miss K Marks 7-10-10 V Slattery 74
7 P54P ESKLEYBROOK 12 N Twiston-Davies 6-10-7 C Llewellyn 89
8 0P-6 THE HATCHER 105 (S) D Gandolfo 11-10-3 D Leahy 97
9 U225 CREDO BOY 29 (S) K Bishop 10-10-0 R Greene 97
10 0P6F WELBURN BOY 66 (B,F) M Sheppard 7-10-0 R Widger (5) 87
11 0USP CHEF CHIPPIE 8 (B) W Kemp 6-10-0 B Powell 38

7-4 Catherine's Way, 9-4 Sister Gale, 7-1 Fighting Times, 12-1 Reflex Courier, 14-1 Oriental Style, Eskleybrook, Credo Boy, 20-1 others

2.50 DRAGON HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,860: 2m 7f 110yd) (6)

1 3503 LIVER BIRD 33 (S) Miss V Williams 9-12-0 N Williamson –
2 2F33 JAZZMAN 40 (G) G McCourt 7-11-1 E Husband [illegible]
3 4-03 ELTIGRI 24 (G) T Casey 7-10-8 M A Fitzgerald –
4 /PU2 ROCKY PARK 33 (S) G Balding 13-10-7 B Fenton 117
5 3F33 DADDY DANCER 14 Mrs P Ford 8-10-4 D McPhail (5) 109
6 -F32 MADAM MUCK 11 (G) N Twiston-Davies 8-10-1 C Llewellyn 109

5-2 Liver Bird, 11-4 Madam Muck, 7-2 Rocky Park, 9-2 Jazzman, 6-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Miss V Williams, 3 winners from 11 runners, 27.3%; N Twiston-Davies, 7 from 28, 25.0%; Miss H Knight, 7 from 31, 22.6%; D Nicholson, 8 from 45, 17.8%. Only qualifiers.

JOCKEYS: G Supple, 3 winners from 9 rides, 33.3%; M A Fitzgerald, 12 from 53, 22.6%; J Culloty, 5 from 24, 20.8%; B Fenton, 4 from 24, 16.7%; J McCarthy, 4 from 24, 16.7%; A Thornton, 4 from 24, 16.7%.

3.20 SYSTON HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,214: 2m 4f 110yd) (7)

1 F43- RED BEAN 346 (F,S) S Earle 11-11-13 R Johnson 71
2 4440 FLAPJACK LAD 35 (F,G,S) N T-Davies 10-11-9 C Llewellyn 113
3 4130 INDIAN RUN 12 (G,S) R Hodges 10-11-8 P Holley 84
4 PP06 COPPERHURST 39 (D,G,S) W Kemp 8-10-8 B Powell 106
5 2456 PEVERIL PENDRAGON 15 (S) G Balding 5-10-5 B Fenton 73
6 0005 BROWNRATH KING 13 (S) C Grant 10-10-0 Mr J Crowley (5) 57
7 4P40 STAGE PLAYER 241 (F,G,S) Miss C Caroe 13-10-0 C Webb [illegible]

9-4 Red Bean, 3-1 Copperhurst, 7-2 Indian Run, 5-1 Flapjack Lad, 7-1 Peveril Pendragon, 20-1 Brownrath King, 25-1 Stage Player

3.50 RUTLAND WATER NOVICES CHASE
(£4,598: 2m 7f 110yd) (5)

1 -612 SAMUEL WILDERSPIN 31 (S) D Nicholson 7-11-4 R Johnson 98
2 3520 GREYTON 12 (S) R Rowe 6-10-12 B Fenton –
3 4483 LOTHIAN COMMANDER 14 (B) D McCain 7-10-12 G Bradley [illegible]
4 63-3 SWEEP CLEAN 14 T Casey 7-10-12 A Thornton 28
5 00/ HEDIQUEENOFCLUBS 682 N T-Davies 8-10-7 C Llewellyn –

8-11 Samuel Wilderspin, 4-1 Sweep Clean, 5-1 Greyton, 10-1 Hediqueenofclubs, 12-1 Lothian Commander

4.20 GREAT GLEN NOVICES CHASE
(£2,924: 2m 4f 110yd) (5)

1 30-6 FERRYHILL 83 Miss H Knight 6-11-3 J Culloty –
2 /80- NO MATTER 478 R Rowe 8-11-3 B Fenton –
3 -564 ROMANCER 8 (B,G) N Twiston-Davies 8-11-3 C Llewellyn [illegible]
4 /2-F STRONG VISION 22 (F,S) K Bailey 8-11-3 N Williamson –
5 -FP0 YELAPA PRINCE 8 (D,S) F Kirby 8-11-3 G Supple (3) 56

4-7 Romancer, 5-2 Strong Vision, 12-1 No Matter, 14-1 Ferryhill, 20-1 Yelapa Prince.

4.50 OAKHAM HANDICAP CHASE (£3,548: 2m 1f) (6)

1 1431 CENTAUR EXPRESS 35 (CD,G,S) A Streeter 7-12-0 M A Fitzgerald 113
2 14-P MUSIC PLEASE 108 (G,S) B Preece 7-11-13 Mr H Ephgrave (7) 34
3 -436 COLONEL BLAZER 108 (BF,C,F,G,S) Miss H Knight 7-11-8 J Culloty 76
4 P3P1 BOULEVARD BAY 14 (CD,G,S) Mrs P Robeson 8-11-0 J A McCarthy 62
5 2212 NORTHERN SADDLER 15 (D,F,G,S) R Hodges 12-10-4 R Johnson 112
6 6246 ASTRAL INVASION 15 (B,CD,G) T Wall 8-10-0 X Aizpuru (3) [illegible]

2-1 Centaur Express, 11-4 Colonel Blazer, 7-2 Northern Saddler, 6-1 Boulevard Bay, 7-1 Astral Invasion, 20-1 Music Please

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

2.10 Western Chief. 2.40 Bowcliffe Grange. 3.10 Mantles Princess. 3.40 Totom. 4.10 Harik. 4.40 Nautical Warning.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW BEST SIS

2.10 SHAKESPEARE AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP
(£2,697: 1m 5f) (13 runners)

1 240/ WESTERN CHIEF 57J (G,S) D Williams 5-11-7 C Eddery (7) 10
2 3-40 DOUBLE FLIGHT 40 (F) Miss B Sanders 5-10-9 Miss L Sheen (5) 13
3 -040 GEE BEE BOY 24 (G) G McCourt 5-10-1 A Bradley (5) 4
4 0011 SHANGHAI LIL 12 (C) M F-Godley 7-10-1 Mrs S Bosley 3
5 0-60 DENTARDIA 19 J Eustace 4-9-10 Miss J Rees (7) 11
6 /461 BIGWIG 19 (B,CD) G L Moore 6-9-5 I Mongan (3) 8
7 6500 FOURDANED 5 B Johnson 6-9-5 Mrs K Hills (7) 1
8 500/ SHEEP STEALER 472 R Peacock 11-9-4 Mrs C Peacock (5) 7
9 250/ DASHING INVADER 13J (B) D Williams 6-9-4 Mrs S Moore (5) 9
10 4-06 XYLEM 32 (F,G,S) J Pearce 8-9-3 Mrs L Pearce 6
11 0005 GREEN JACKET 19 (B) R O'Sullivan 4-9-3 Miss B Fisher (7) 5
12 04-0 CATCHMENT 21 Mrs A Perrett 5-9-3 Mrs A Perrett 2
13 -040 DON'T DROP BOMBS 33 (V,C,F,G) H Collingridge 10-9-3 Miss J Feilden 12

5-2 Shanghai Lil, 3-1 Bigwig, 7-1 Double Flight, 10-1 Gee Bee Boy, Catchment, 12-1 Dentardia, Don't Drop Bombs, 16-1 others.

2.40 BOOK A BOX FOR THE WINTER DERBY HANDICAP (£2,533: 5f) (7)

1 2d12 HALF TONE 5 (B,BF,CD,F,G,S) R Flower 7-10-0 J Weaver 1
2 0134 SQUIRE CORRIE 12 (B,CD,F,G) D Chapman 7-9-13 A Culhane 6
3 3300 DANDE TIMES 12 (B,D) K Ivory 4-8-13 Martin Dwyer 3
4 0043 GLASTONBURY 10 (C) P Howling 3-8-10 C Rutter 5
5 4-66 BOWCLIFFE GRANGE 19 (D,F,G) D Chapman 7-8-4 J Fanning 2
6 0206 PLEIN GAZ 14 (C,S) R O'Sullivan 6-8-3 Sophie Mitchell 4
7 6256 DANCING JACK 12 (CD) J Bridger 6-8-0 R Brisland (7) 7

2-1 Half Tone, 3-1 Squire Corrie, 5-1 Bowcliffe Grange, 6-1 Dande Times, 10-1 Glastonbury, Dancing Jack, 12-1 Plein Gaz.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: T Barron, 12 winners from 33 runners, 36.4%; J Fanshawe, 5 from 23, 21.7%; D Chapman, 23 from 123, 18.7%; B Hills, 14 from 75, 18.7%; Mrs A Perrett, 5 from 27, 18.5%; G Lewis, 19 from 119, 16.0%.

JOCKEYS: J Weaver, 69 winners from 319 rides, 21.6%; P Dobbs, 8 from 38, 21.1%; I Mongan, 3 from 15, 20.0%; N Pollard, 13 from 75, 17.3%; D McKeown, 28 from 165, 17.0%; A Culhane, 20 from 121, 16.5%.

3.10 BOOKER FOODSERVICES EXTRAVAGANZA MAIDEN STAKES (£3,081: 1m 2f) (8)

1 /0-0 HICKORY 14 M Haynes 4-9-12 F Norton 7
2 50-6 MARK TIME 60 P Hedger 4-9-12 A Clark 8
3 30-2 MY LITTLE MAN 13 (V) B Smart 4-9-12 P Goode (5) 4
4 0- SPINNER TOY 236 J Fox 4-9-12 P Fitzsimons (7) 6
5 0- MANTLES PRINCESS 302 G Lewis 4-9-7 N Day 2
6 6 MODESTY HALL 12 M Kettle 4-9-7 T Sprake 3
7 3-42 WILD NETTLE 12 J Fox 5-9-7 P Dobbs (7) 1
8 005- SHEER NATIVE 162 B Hills 3-8-0 K Sked (5) 5

4-5 Sheer Native, 4-1 Wild Nettle, 6-1 My Little Man, Mantles Princess, 12-1 others.

3.40 LADBROKE (SHOWCASE HANDICAP AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE) (£7,165: 1m 2f) (14)

1 600- SICK AS A PARROT 150 (E,F,G) C Dwyer 4-10-0 J Weaver 10
2 016- WADI 223 (BF,D,G) G McCourt 4-9-13 R Studholme (5) 14
3 05-1 OVER TO YOU 25 (G) T Barron 5-9-11 D Sweeney 3
4 00-0 HERR TRIGGER 14 (B,CD,F) J Scargill 8-9-8 N Pollard (3) 13
5 3-11 BANK ON HIM 14 (CD) G L Moore 4-9-7 J Quinn 9
6 15-1 TOTOM 26 (V,CD) J Fanshawe 4-9-6 R Cochrane 1
7 1-00 RITUAL 20 (C) S Dow 4-9-6 P Doe (3) 12
8 -135 PHILISTAR 42 (E,BF,CD,F,G) K Burke 6-9-5 N Callan (5) 7
9 000- SEA DANZIG 140 (CD,F,G) J Bridger 6-9-3 R Brisland (7) 6
10 00-3 MONO LADY 10 (V,CD,F,S) D Haydn Jones 6-8-12 A Mackay 8
11 3220 KINGS ARROW 14 (CD) P Howling 4-8-10 S Whitworth 5
12 -003 POWDER RIVER 5 (BF,D,G) K Burke 5-8-7 Dean McKeown 2
13 -422 HAWKSBILL HENRY 7 (BF,CD) Mrs A Perrett 5-8-5 A Clark 11
14 00/0 BROUGHTONS ERROR 21 (G) W Musson 5-7-10 P Fessey 4

7-2 Totom, 9-2 Bank On Him, 5-1 Powder River, 8-1 Philistar, 10-1 Hawksbill Henry, Kings Arrow, Over To You, 12-1 Herr Trigger, Mono Lady, 14-1 Ritual, 16-1 others.

4.10 COME TO THE WINTER DERBY HANDICAP
(£3,539: 2m) (6)

1 3412 HARIK 10 (CD) G L Moore 5-9-10 N Callan (5) 1
2 630- HAL HOO YAROOM 90J (F,G) J Jenkins 6-9-4 A Culhane 4
3 -212 PADAUK 21 (B,BF,CD) M Haynes 5-8-9 F Norton 3
4 -651 HURGILL DANCER 14 (C,G) R O'Sullivan 5-7-10 N Carlisle 5
5 1221 SLEAVE SILK 5 (CD) W Musson 4-7-10 (6ex) J Quinn 6
6 05-1 RED BROOK LAD 5 (B,CD) S Dow 4-7-10 (6ex) P Doe (3) 2

9-4 Sleave Silk, 11-4 Padauk, 7-2 Harik, 6-1 Hurgill Dancer, 7-1 others.

4.40 WORDSWORTH CLASSIFIED STAKES
(£2,608: 1m) (7)

1 11-4 CASTLES BURNING 45 (B,CD,F) C Cyzer 5-9-10 J Weaver 1
2 0-01 NAUTICAL WARNING 14 (CD) B Johnson 4-9-8 N Day 7
3 0-10 ZIMIRI 24 (CD) J Toller 5-9-8 S Whitworth 2
4 46-0 MISTER TRICKY 59 (CD) P Mitchell 4-9-6 R Cochrane 6
5 -526 SASEEDO 7 (F,G,S) J Bridger 9-9-6 G Bardwell 5
6 2211 COMPTON AKKA 10 (C) G A Butler 3-8-3 J Quinn 3
7 320- PATSY STONE 115 M Kettle 3-7-13 P Doe (3) 4

4-6 Compton Akka, 11-2 Castles Burning, 7-1 Nautical Warning, 10-1 Zimiri, 12-1 Mister Tricky, 14-1 Patsy Stone, 25-1 Saseedo

RICHARD EVANS

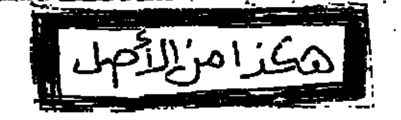
Nap: COPPERHURST
(3.20 Leicester)

This mare ran well from a long way out of the handicap last time and can cause a surprise with conditions in her favour today.

Next best: Misconduct
(2.00 Catterick)

Hammond aim

MICKY HAMMOND plans to run his smart hurdler, Deep Water, in the Scottish Champion Hurdle at Ayr next month. Deep Water made a belated reappearance when last of five to Midnight Legend at Sandown last month, and Hammond said: "He won't necessarily have another run before Ayr."







STUART CUTTERSIDE

Anelka swerves past Given and scores Arsenal's only goal at St James' Park on Sunday. In his present form, how can any Fantasy League manager be without him?

Pearce locates target to hammer his point home

On previous FA Cup weekends, the small number of matches affecting *The Times* Fantasy League has not made it worthwhile to award weekly or ON-Target prizes. This week, however, a total of six FA Carling *Premiership games* are being played, so there will be no "rollover" of prizes to the following week.

Today we announce the winner of the prize of £1,000 plus £100 worth of Puma sports equipment awarded to the Fantasy manager of the month, in addition to the £500 prize for the team of the week (opposite).

■ Our aim, misguided perhaps, is give our Fantasy player of the week award to a different player each week. The logic behind this decision is that readers of these pages probably know all they need to about stars such as Dwight Yorke, Nicolas Anelka and Andy Cole, whose regular high scoring means they are often candidates for the award; therefore we prefer to draw their attention to other, lesser-known names who might be worth a place in their Fantasy teams.

Occasionally, we permit ourselves a smug smile as one of our previous winners comes up with another sparkling seven days; on Saturday, for example, George Boateng, the Coventry City midfield player, our award-winner a while ago, scored twice in his team's 4-1 away win over Aston Villa.

His team-mate, John Aloisi, also netted twice, and was considered for this week's title, but his first-team appearances tend to be limited, so we have picked another relatively unsung hero who is first choice for his club.

This steady central defender is one of only two players at Upton Park to hold an FA Carling Premiership winner's medal (Ian Wright, formerly with Arsenal, is the other), earned when he was in the Blackburn Rovers squad that took the title in 1995. On Saturday, Ian Pearce (for it is he) scored against his former employers, and helped *keep them out at the other end, to* earn six Fantasy League points.



Pearce is not a consistent goalscorer: all the more remarkable, then, that Saturday's was the second West Ham home game in succession in which he has appeared at the far post to score from open play. Against Nottingham Forest a fortnight ago, he volleyed in a Frank Lampard cross from the left, and against Blackburn, met a far post cross from Paolo Di Canio on the right to send a header past John Filan. When Rovers launched their comeback attempt in the second half, he stood firm in his usual position on the right of the back three.

Pearce began his career with Chelsea and made four appearances as substitute before joining Blackburn for £300,000 in 1993. Almost four years later, his value had increased to £1,600,000 when he arrived at Upton Park, but that still represents a bargain buy by Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, who has seen the reliable Pearce help his side into contention for European qualification. Inflation and his consistent level of performance in a winning team means that he will cost you £3.1 million, but for your money you are getting a sound defender who has, it seems, discovered where the goal is.

☐ For legal reasons, *The Times* Fantasy League is no longer able to accept entries from players under 18 years of age. Players 17 years and under already registered in the main and youth leagues will, however, be allowed to remain in the competition.

PRIZES

- ***£50,000 to the top Fantasy League manager, plus a trip for two to the European Cup final***
- ***£10,000 to the runner-up***
- ***£5,000 for third place***
- ***£1,000 monthly prizes: eight prizes of £1,000, plus £100 of Puma sports equipment***
- ***£500 weekly prizes: 36 prizes of £500, plus £100 of Puma sports equipment***
- ***£1,000 youth prize, plus monthly prizes of a Premiership football shirt***
- ***£500 weekly On-Target prize***

As I was saying

Not much of a week coming up, is it?

What do you mean?

Well, the FA Cup sixth round is being played this weekend, so there isn't a lot happening on the Fantasy front.

I disagree. There may only be three FA Carling Premiership games on Saturday, but plenty is going on in midweek.

Hmm. I'd overlooked that. What games are on, then?

Apart from last night's Leicester versus Leeds game, which counts towards next week's scores, there's Tottenham against Southampton tonight, and Sheffield Wednesday against Wimbledon tomorrow.

And Leicester, Southampton and Wimbledon play again on Saturday.

Exactly. So if any of those teams manage two wins, or get two clean sheets in the case of their defenders, there's a chance for some good Fantasy League scores.

And somehow I get the feeling that there might be a very clean sheet indeed at Wimbledon v Leicester on Saturday.

You never know. Who would have predicted Coventry winning 4-1 away to Villa? It might be a goal feast.

I should think there's more chance of goals in West Ham's game away to Southampton.

For Southampton, perhaps. They've done well in that fixture recently, and Southampton have been *having a good run at home.*

But won't they be tired after two games in a week? And the Leicester and Wimbledon players?

Since those two play each other, that should cancel itself out.

That leaves one other game, by my reckoning. Who's playing?

Ah, now that's a big game: Coventry at home to Charlton. A real relegation six-pointer.

Coventry to walk it?

Don't be too sure. Charlton have gone four games without conceding a goal.

But is there anyone in any of these teams that I should be looking to sign?

On form, Charlton defenders. Someone like Carl Tiler goes up for set-pieces, and he came very close to a goal against Forest at the weekend. He should be good for three points at least at Highfield Road.

So let me get this straight; you're making a prediction about Coventry, whose last result you admitted was completely unpredictable?

Funny game, Fantasy Football.



HOW TO ENTER YOUR FANTASY LEAGUE TEAM

Select a team of 11 Premiership players from those listed right. The total value of your team must not exceed £50m and you cannot choose *more than one player from the same Premiership* club. Your team must be in a 4-4-2 formation with: one goalkeeper; two full-backs; two centre-backs; four midfielders; and two forwards.

TO ENTER BY POST Name your team on the entry form, left, in no more than 16 characters. Enter the correct three-digit player codes from the list, right, followed by the players' names. Enter *the first three characters of each player's team* under the heading CLUB, ie, LEE for Leeds. Also enter the value of each player shown on the list right. Add up the values of the 11 players in your team and make sure the total does not exceed £50m. Send your entry to the address shown, with a cheque/PO for £2.50 (£10 sterling outside UK or *RoI) or your credit-card details. You will get* confirmation of your team and your personal identity number (PIN) on receipt of your entry form. Readers under 18 should seek parental permission before entering. They must state their date of birth and indicate if they wish to enter our Youth League.

LUCKY DIP If you would like us to select a team *at random for you, please tick the Lucky Dip box* on the entry form. Postal entries only.

TO ENTER BY PHONE Call **0640 67 88 99** (+44 870 901 4209 outside the UK) using a touch-tone (DTMF) phone and when prompted tap in your 11 three-digit player codes. You will be asked to give the name of your team (no more than 16 *characters). You will then be given a 10-digit PIN,* make sure you write this down and keep it safe to be able to check your team's progress and make transfers. Calls last about seven minutes. 0640 calls are 60p per minute. Calls from outside the UK are charged at national rates. *Calls from* payphones cost approximately double.

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Promoter: News Promotions Ltd, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London E1 9XY

THE TIMES MAIN FANTASY LEAGUE ENTRY FORM

Submit your entry as soon as possible to maximise your point-scoring opportunities

FANTASY TEAM NAME (up to 16 characters) ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

LUCKY DIP If you wish to have your team selected by us at random, tick box ☐

CODE	NAME	CLUB (first 3 letters)	VALUE
	GOALKEEPER NAME		£ m
	FULL-BACK NAME		£ m
	FULL-BACK NAME		£ m
	CENTRE-BACK NAME		£ m
	CENTRE-BACK NAME		£ m
	MIDFIELDER NAME		£ m
	MIDFIELDER NAME		£ m
	MIDFIELDER NAME		£ m
	MIDFIELDER NAME		£ m
	FORWARD NAME		£ m
	FORWARD NAME		£ m

MAXIMUM OF ONE PLAYER PER PREMIERSHIP TEAM — *TOTAL VALUE (MAX £50m)* £

I also wish to enter the Youth League (please tick) ☐

I was under 18 on August 15, 1998. ***Date of birth*** ☐☐ ☐☐ ☐☐

First Name .... Surname ....

Address ....

Postcode .... Daytime tel ....

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Supply address of registered cardholder on separate sheet if different from above. Signature ....

Send with £2.50 entry fee (£10 sterling for entrants outside the UK or RoI) to: The Times Fantasy League, Abacus House, Dudley St, Luton, Beds LU1 1ZZ

1. On which days do you usually buy The Times? ☐ Monday ☐ Tuesday ☐ Wednesday ☐ Thursday ☐ Friday ☐ Saturday ☐ Don't usually buy The Times
2. Which other national daily newspaper(s) do you buy at least once a week?
3. Which Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy almost always (3-4 copies per month)?
4. Which Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy quite often (1-2 copies per month)?

If you do not wish to receive other offers from Times Newspapers Limited, please tick box ☐

FANTASY LEAGUE SERVICES

Use these numbers for all the information you need:

CHECKLINE

To check your team's standing

0640 625 102

(ex-UK +44 870 901 4292)

TRANSFER LINE

To alter your team

0640 625 103

(ex-UK +44 870 901 4293)
0640 calls cost 60p per minute (ex UK numbers charge at national rates)

FAXBACK

A comprehensive update sheet

0991 123 720

(ex-UK +44 870 901 4280)

SUPER LEAGUE FAXBACK

A brand new service

0991 123 721

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Faxbacks cost £1 per minute (ex UK numbers charged at national rates)

HELPLINE

for any queries

01582 702720

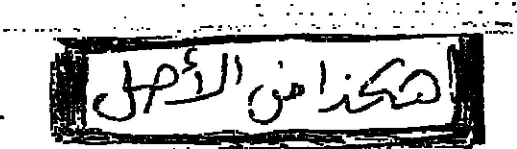
CHOOSE YOUR PLAYERS FROM HERE

Columns show: code, name, club, weekly points, total points, valuation(m)

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Club	Weekly	Total	Value
102	D Seaman	ARS	0	28	3.7
146	A Manninger	ARS	0	12	3.4
139	M Bosnich	AST	0	12	3.2
140	M Oakes	AST	-3	1	2.9
144	A Rachel	AST	0	-1	2.6
106	J Filan	BLA	-1	-6	2.8
126	A Fettis	BLA	0	6	2.5
127	T Flowers	BLA	0	-3	3.1
104	S Ilic	CHA	0	-11	2.3
105	M Salmon	CHA	0	0	2.2
100	A Petterson	CHA	0	-1	2.2
134	S Royce	CHA	3	11	2.2
137	D Kharine	CHE	0	0	2.9
138	E de Goey	CHE	0	28	3.2
107	S Ogrizovic	COV	0	-1	2.4
117	M Hedman	COV	0	-3	2.6
103	R Hoult	DER	0	5	2.3
153	M Poom	DER	0	9	2.5
112	P Gerrard	EVE	0	0	2.4
114	S Simonsen	EVE	0	0	2.7
118	T Myhre	EVE	0	20	2.6
113	N Martyn	LEE	0	14	3.1
115	M Beeney	LEE	0	0	2.8
125	P Robinson	LEE	0	4	2.7
123	K Keller	LEI	0	5	2.9
124	P Arphexad	LEI	0	0	2.6
122	B Friedel	LIV	0	-1	3.3
131	D James	LIV	-1	5	3.3
116	P Schmeichel	MAN	0	14	4.0
121	R van der Gouw	MAN	0	3	3.5
109	M Schwarzer	MID	-2	8	2.7
110	B Roberts	MID	0	0	2.4
111	M Beresford	MID	0	-3	2.5
141	S Given	NEW	0	10	3.0
142	L Perez	NEW	0	0	2.7
143	S Harper	NEW	0	2	2.5
119	D Beasant	NOT	0	-24	2.7
120	M Crossley	NOT	3	3	2.6
138	K Pressman	SHE	0	7	2.5
149	M Clarke	SHE	0	0	2.2
150	P Srnicek	SHE	0	9	2.3
147	N Moss	SOU	0	-2	2.2
148	P Jones	SOU	-1	-8	2.4
128	I Walker	TOT	0	10	2.8
154	H Segers	TOT	0	0	2.4
155	E Baardsen	TOT	0	3	2.6
129	C Forrest	WES	0	0	2.5
130	S Hislop	WES	-3	2	2.7
132	N Sullivan	WIM	0	1	2.5
135	[illegible]	WIM	0	0	2.3

Code	Name	Club	Weekly	Total	Value
409	S Grayson	AST	0	0	3.3
410	A Thompson	AST	0	5	4.5
411	[illegible]	AST	0	0	3.6
413	L Hendrie	AST	0	16	3.7
535	I Taylor	AST	0	11	3.8
415	W McKinlay	BLA	0	0	3.2
417	J Wilcox	BLA	0	-1	4.0
419	D Duff	BLA	0	4	4.2
421	J Corbett	BLA	0	0	3.3
422	T Sherwood	BLA	3	14	4.1
423	D Johnson	BLA	0	[illegible]	3.1
426	[illegible]	BLA	0	[illegible]	3.3
427	D Marcolin	BLA	0	3	3.6
428	D Dunn	BLA	0	7	3.1
575	C Flitcroft	BLA	0	10	3.3
499	S Parker	CHA	0	2	3.0
501	K Jones	CHA	0	5	3.1
502	M Kinsella	CHA	0	8	3.5
504	M Holmes	CHA	0	0	3.2
505	S Newton	CHA	0	2	3.3
506	J Robinson	CHA	0	4	3.2
507	N Redfearn	CHA	0	8	4.1
508	P Mortimer	CHA	0	5	3.4
401	M Nicholls	CHE	0	0	3.3
404	P Hughes	CHE	0	0	3.1
429	J Morris	CHE	0	5	3.2
430	R Di Matteo	CHE	0	11	4.4
433	B Goldbaek	CHE	3	13	3.9
434	D Petrescu	CHE	2	24	4.3
435	E Newton	CHE	0	0	3.1
437	G Poyet	CHE	0	25	4.9
439	D Wise	CHE	0	6	3.8
485	G McAllister	COV	2	7	3.9
584	L Delorge	COV	0	0	3.5
588	B Quinn	COV	0	2	3.2
589	P Hall	COV	0	0	3.8
590	P Telfer	COV	0	3	3.5
591	N Whelan	COV	0	23	4.4
592	T E Soltvedt	COV	0	7	3.4
593	W Boland	COV	0	0	3.0
594	G Boateng	COV	6	13	3.3
595	P Clement	COV	0	2	3.5
596	G Strachan	COV	0	0	3.1
598	S Shilton	COV	0	0	3.0
599	S Froggatt	COV	4	17	3.7
440	D Powell	DER	0	4	3.2
442	S Eranio	DER	0	0	3.8
443	L Carsley	DER	0	5	3.1
444	F Baiano	DER	0	3	5.2
445	K Harper	DER	0	5	3.7
446	J Hunt	DER	0	3	3.4
479	L Robinson	DER	0	2	3.6
403	G Farrelly	EVE	0	0	3.2
414	A Grant	EVE	0	0	3.1
418	D Williamson	EVE	0	0	3.2



Anelka shoots his way to the top

The Arsenal forward appears unstoppable, but Charlton have started a revival that could have aided Fantasy League managers

If one were to select a player and a team of the month for February, there would be few arguments with the choices of Nicolas Anelka, of Arsenal, as the outstanding individual, and Charlton Athletic as the team.

After a disastrous run of results that included eight defeats in succession, Charlton won three games out of four in February and did not concede a goal — equalling their best spell in the top division since the days of Sam Bartram.

Anelka had the sort of month that most players can only dream about, eclipsing even the likes of Dwight Yorke in his goalscoring; indeed, when the two went head-to-head at Old Trafford, it was Anelka who put his side ahead with an angled shot into the roof of the Stretford End net over a sprawling Peter Schmeichel, while Yorke was unable to score, seeing a late effort saved by David Seaman.

Anelka's two most memorable goals of the month, scored for France against England at Wembley, do not, of course, count towards his Fantasy League score, but there were plenty of others: the three against Leicester City at Highbury, for instance.

Anelka, however, was not the first name on the list when this month's winning Fantasy League team, Zia's Passion, was being chosen by Zia Chaudhry, of Berkshire.

Mr Chaudhry, who lives in Slough and is studying Information Technology at Langley College, supports Liverpool, and chose Michael Owen ahead of the Arsenal man. Nevertheless, Anelka was soon pencilled in, "for his shooting power and skill".

With Mr Chaudhry's team finishing the month only four points ahead of the field, the contributions of two midfield players, Dietmar Hamann, of Newcastle United, who scored the equaliser against Arsenal at St James' Park on Sunday, and George Boateng, who gained six Fantasy League points in Coventry City's 4-1 win over Aston Villa, were important.

The selection of big-money players farther forward meant that there was little left over to spend on defenders, which turned out to be a blessing in disguise. A bargain buy, Chris Powell, who cost only £2.7 million, was part of an impregnable Charlton defence in the victories against Wimbledon, Liverpool and Derby County, Powell's previous club, and the draw with Nottingham Forest last Saturday.

Powell, the former Southend United left back who arrived at The Valley from Pride Park last summer for a Charlton club record fee of £825,000, contributed 14 points to Mr Chaudhry's total of 77, winning him £1,000 plus £100 worth of sports equipment — a nice birthday present, if it did arrive two weeks early.

"I spent a lot of money on Anelka, Owen and some expensive midfield players, so I went for a cheap defender and I came up with him," Mr Chaudhry said.

Powell was also a member of the weekly winners, Twig's Team, chosen by Chris Meekings, of Gloucester. Mr Meekings is a supporter of Coventry City, and was delighted to see Boateng score twice at Villa Park, the six points being the largest single contribution to his team's score of 28, for which he wins £500 and £100 worth of sports equipment.

Originally, the Coventry representative in Mr Meekings' team was Dion Dublin, but a double transfer in October saw Dublin and Ian Taylor exchanged for Boateng and Yorke. Yorke was the team's second-highest scorer this week with 5, thanks to a goal and an assist against Southampton, while four other players scored three: Rio Ferdinand, Frank Leboeuf, Hamann and Efan Ekoku.



MONTHLY WINNER

ZIA'S PASSION

Player	Points
S Hislop (WES)	-1
A Hinchcliffe (SHE)	7
C Powell (CHA)	14
M Desailly (CHE)	5
J Stam (MAN)	6
M Izzet (LEI)	0
O Dacourt (EVE)	3
D Hamann (NEW)	8
G Boateng (COV)	6
N Anelka (ARS)	18
M Owen (LIV)	11

TOTAL POINTS: 77

FANTASY PLAYER OF THE WEEK



BEN RADFORD/ALLSPORT

After more than five seasons of keeping them out for Blackburn Rovers and West Ham United, Ian Pearce has suddenly discovered the knack of knocking them in at the other end. On Saturday, his old mates from Ewood Park found out for themselves as Pearce scored six Fantasy League points

FANTASY LEAGUE TOP 100

Pos	Manager	Team	Points
1	Phil Clarke	Shabadi United	319
2	Sarabjot Kohli	Junglemen	305
3	Mark Coles	Joe Public	304
4	James Kerr	Serious Squad	303
5	Robert Little	Broken Arrow	302
6	Michael Metejtschuk	Bandidos Darsene	298
6	Tim Gardner	Harchester Who?	298
8	John Lofthouse	Solid At The Bac	296
9	Gordon Crutchley	Super Saddlers B	295
10	David Young	Dave 10	294
10	John Humphreys	Academicals	294
10	Peter Leathem	Spike Town	294
10	Mike Truran	Tigger United	294
14	David Wise	Walsall Reserves	293
15	Robin Harrington	Chequers Champs	292
15	Robert Anderson	Robert's Rovers	292
15	Richard Deane	On The Wagon	292
18	Andrew James Spencer	This One's Mine	291
18	Phil Tusler	Peter 7	291
20	Lucy Crosthwaite	I Hate Football	290
21	Mike Shipley	Minor Threat	289
21	Phil Tusler	Pin-Ups 7	289
21	Carol Flint	The Baggage Boys	289
21	John White	Fusegear	289
25	Mark Gayler	Third Time Lucky	288
25	David Edmondson	Edmo Utd Mington	288
25	Jennifer Cockburn	Yeah Right!	288
25	David Mead	In The City	288
29	Jason Wynne	Taffys Terrors	287
29	Neil Bradbrook	Chapeltown Elite	287
31	Kevin Styles	Olivianewtonjohn	285
31	Alan Featherstone	Larlarsdipsyteam	285
33	Henry Cosgrove	Top Class Reject	284
33	John Green	Chicken Chasers	284
33	Anil Nathan	Nathan Hotspurs	284
33	David Tilley	Tilley FC	284
33	Henrietta Ball	Henri & Goals UU	284
33	Terry Bullen	Dion Dion Dion	284
39	Mandy Adamson	Man(dy) United	283
39	Colin Head	Headstart Gunard	283
39	Iain Anderson	The Odd Squad	283
39	Paul O'Neill	Four Four Two	283
43	C Sharpe	Sunfish Stars	282
43	John Miner	Melodymaker	282
45	Joseph Barkley	Joren United	281
45	Don Baxter	Don's Diamonds	281
45	Mike Shipley	Minor Threat 16	281
45	Mike Shipley	Minus Threat 10	281
45	Stephen Trup	Winners	281
50	Brian Payne	Cosmopolitan III	280
50	Pritesh Gadbia	Willesden Eleven	280
50	Darren Sawyer	Finchleyallstars	280
50	Miles Ambler	Mil Stars	280
50	Matthew O'Neil	The M Team	280
50	Scott Brett	Scott's Stars	280
50	Terry Bullen	El Tel's Revenge	280
50	Tony Fidler	Real Dataman	280
50	Jwalant Popat	Popat's Army	280
50	Rajiv Kothari	Milleniumbuggers	280
60	Ron Allport	Cyclones	279
60	Andy Georgia	Misty's Magic Te	279
60	James Muir	James Murauders	279
60	Peter Donnelly	Goals 'R Us	279
60	Tom Summers	Ganichou	279
65	Colin Campbell	Barrys Hats	278
65	Allan Purdy	Als Bandits	278
65	Mike Hawke	Holytump Yagler	278
65	Nigel Kalb	Kalbs Kings 9	278
65	Michael Scaife	Alldoiswash&go	278
65	Nigel Byrne	Nigel's Team	278
71	David Walker	Just A Second FC	277
71	Tom Lee	The Bears FC	277
71	Andy Luckhurst	Caroline B	277
71	David Balbi	Utility Team	277
75	Tony Green	Big Bad Mofs 11	276
75	Paul Swain	QB Oldboys	276
75	Philip Morton	Skilli Vanili	276
75	Stephen Anthony	Anthill Mob FC	276
79	Adam Fletcher	Red Or Dead	275
79	Charles Duncan	Allans Strollers	275
79	Kevin Culverhouse	Kevin's Kings	275
79	Andrew Kavanagh	Super Snipers FC	275
79	J Prinsell	Grand Pan Pizza	275
79	Jas Singh	Inter City 442	275
79	Paul Kibble	Clausentum Town	275
79	Dominic Quibell	Dom's Demons	275
79	David Daley	The Daley X1	275
79	L Samuels	Spartak Mossley	275
89	Brian Highdale	Dixie's Deans FC	274
89	Christopher Vanezis	Aladin's Army	274
89	Graham Booth	Manchester City	274
89	Claire Kilburn	Mighty Terrapins	274
89	Jonathan Hayes	Special Brew	274
89	Claire Barber	Super Spurs	274
89	Sanjeev Chopra	Allstars FC	274
89	Chris Coles	Inter Radicchio	274
89	Chris Wallis	Wally's Wonders 2	274
89	Geoff Clarke	Clarkie's Kickers	274
89	Nicholas Fenney	Fillesenfleurs	274
89	D B Fisher	Taking Candy	274
89	Bradley Woodbridge	The Business	274
89	Andrew P Heelin	Shortstraw	274
89	Richard Brownvill	Rye Plant	274
89	Steve Wootten	Wootten's Winners	274
89	George Millington	Survivors 6	274

Playing like Forest? Take heart and seek out the £500 prize

It may be closer to the end of the season than the beginning, but Fantasy League prizes remain up for grabs with ON-Target

Congratulations to Andrew Clarke, of Guildford, the main winner of ON-Target this week, who finds himself £500 richer and possessor of an EA Sports Pack. Fourteen other managers have also managed to win themselves excellent prizes.

Even if you do not have a Fantasy League team, you can enter this new game now — or enter a new one simply for ON-Target. All managers have the chance to win a share of £28,000 of new prizes. *The Times* has teamed up with EA Sports to offer you the chance to own the renowned *FIFA 99* game. Every week you have the chance to win:

- 1st Prize: £500 plus an EA Sports Pack
- 4 runners up: EA Sports Packs
- 10 additional runners up: *FIFA 99* CD-Rom.

Each EA Sports Pack contains: *FIFA 99* for the PlayStation; *FIFA 99* for the PC; EA Sports T-Shirt, key ring and mini football plus a record bag.

IF YOU already have a team in the main game, then you're ready to play ON-Target. Simply check your Fantasy League players' score each week and see if their total is the same as our ON-Target score shown here each Tuesday. If you have scored the exact target points, a quick call to our ON-Target winners' line (national rate call) will put you in the draw to win one of the 15 prizes.

The ON-Target score may be high or low. There could be more than one score (such as today). It could be a minus score. So it's worth checking your performance every week.

Just have your PIN handy to call the winners line on:

0870 901 4270



THIS WEEK'S ON-TARGET SCORE

Has your team scored . . .

-1 or 5

points?

Check your total, then ring

0870 901 4270

(ex UK +44 870 901 4270)

Calls charged at national rates



If you don't have a team, or want to sign up another one, enter now by filling in the entry form. There are no limits to how many teams you enter. Not only could you win the ON-Target prizes, but you could win the main game weekly (£500) or monthly (£1,000) prizes.

HOW TO ENTER: Look up your players' weekly point scores opposite and add them up, or call the checkline 0640 625 102. If your total score for this week matches the ON-Target number(s), then call our claim line on **0870 901 4270** (calls, charged at national rate, should last about a minute). Claims must be made before midnight on Sunday night. The lines then close until the next game starts on Tuesday morning.

If you have scored the correct number of points *and* called the claim line, you go into the draw. Just look in the paper on the following Tuesday to see if you have won.

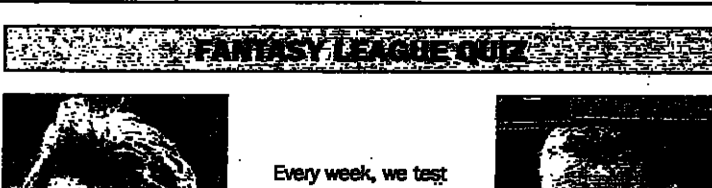
Managers with the correct points who have *not* called the claim line will not be entered. Calls that are incomplete, inaudible or invalid will not be entered. All teams in the draw must conform to the main game rules.

Winners

This week's winners are: Andrew Clarke of Guildford (£500 plus EA Sports Pack); D. Nash of Newtonards, Ross Mitchell of Kirkcaldy, Steven Check of Watford and Kate Daniels of Bury St Edmunds (EA Sports Packs); L. Burn of Hampton, T. Denton of Tunbridge Wells, John Mackissack of Leiston, Suffolk, David Stoer of Ilkley, A. Cummins of Liverpool, T. O'Brian of London N12, B. Deer of Weston-super-Mare, John Feltrall of The Wirral, I. Townsend of Hemel Hempstead and David Doller of Colwyn Bay (Fifa 99 CD-Roms).



FANTASY LEAGUE QUIZ





Every week, we test your football knowledge in our Fantasy Quiz. Last week, we showed you the four players whose names and numbers would add most to the price of a replica shirt: two numerals each, plus the 12 or 13 letters in the names of Niclas Alexandersson (26), Pierre van Hooijdonk (40), Arnar Gunnlaugsson (13) and Chris Bart-Williams (11). How much for a hyphen, by the way?

What do this week's four upwardly-mobile players have in common?



CHECK YOUR SCORES
TELEPHONE 0640 62 51 02

YOUTH LEAGUE TOP 10

Pos	Manager	Team	Points
1	Sarabjot Kohli	Junglemen	305
2	Robert Anderson	Robert's Rovers	292
3	Henrietta Ball	Henri & Goals UU	284
4	Matthew O'Neil	The M Team	280
4	Jwalant Popat	Popat's Army	280
6	Tom Summers	Ganichou	279
7	Graham Booth	Manchester City	274
7	Claire Barber	Super Spurs	274
9	Daniel Lewis	It's A Puppet!	273
9	Daisy Martin	Saxham Tuesdays	273

PETER WILCOCK



Lampard, centre, gained six points for Junglemen during February

Bargains in midfield proving vital

MANAGERS in *The Times* Fantasy League seem to have varying opinions regarding the importance of their midfield. Many less experienced campaigners tend to pack their midfield with a wealth of talent, often with the likes of Beckham, Overmars and McManaman juxtaposed on their team sheet.

With a limited budget available, they are restricted to a patched-up strike force with the hope that their forwards will occasionally get themselves on the scoresheet. However, based on the evidence of the midfield statistics so far this season, it appears that this is not a wise move.

Gone are the days when Matthew Le Tissier was capable of 90 points a season; this season it has proved more advantageous to concentrate on quality in other positions and select bargains in midfield in the hope that they pick up an assist here and there.

This can be demonstrated by the spread of points gained by players in the various positions. Goalkeeping tallies vary from 28 (Seaman and De Goey) to a miserable minus 24 (Beasant) producing a spread of 52 points over the goalkeeping classification. Similarly, the spread in the full back category is 48 and in the centre back department, 57 points.

However, the top-scoring midfield player, Scholes, has just 31 points and as it is not possible for midfield players to score minus points, the spread of points for midfield players is only 31 — significantly lower than in other positions.

In addition to the budget constraint, managers are also restricted to purchasing one player from each Premiership club, so by having Overmars in your side, you are denied the services of a much sought-after Arsenal defender.

There are midfield players out there who are perfectly capable of accumulating a respectable points tally without costing the Earth, who also play for a lower-profile team, thus benefiting your side in two ways.

Benito Carbone, of Sheffield Wednesday, Noel Whelan, of Coventry City, Darren Anderton, of Tottenham Hotspur, and Harry Kewell, of Leeds United, have all accumulated more than 20 points so far and will save you more than £1 million over the bigger names in midfield. For an even bigger saving, Frank Lampard, of West Ham United, Temuri Ketsbaia, of Newcastle United, and Petter Rudi, of Sheffield Wednesday, should also be considered in order to obtain funds to strengthen the defence and attack.

MATT SIMS

TRANSFER LINE

Want to make one of your 12 transfers?

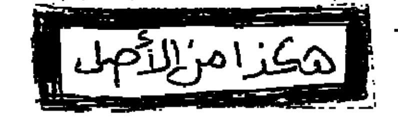
Call

0640 62 51 03

(ex-UK +44 870 901 4293)

0640 calls cost 60p per minute

Ex-UK calls charged at national rates



FOOTBALL

United keep their focus as Inter rule out Ronaldo

BY STEPHEN WOOD

IF IT is a smokescreen, they are themselves in danger of losing sight of the bigger picture. Internazionale, who face Manchester United in the first leg of their European Cup quarter-final tie at Old Trafford tomorrow, insist that Ronaldo is unfit and will not be with team when they fly into Great Britain today.

The Brazil striker has not fully recovered from a long-term knee injury and, if he visits Manchester at all, it is believed that he will arrive on a private jet with Massimo Moratti, the Inter president, tomorrow. Officials of the Milan club said yesterday that Ronaldo is "99 per cent certain" to miss the match.

However, there have been conflicting signals with every new day and United refuse to be fooled by what could amount to an elaborate mind game. Alex Ferguson, the United manager, knows that it will be to the benefit of his team if Inter get themselves preoccupied over Ronaldo. It is also increasingly clear that United believe that they can overcome Inter whether he turns up or not.

Ferguson oversaw a lively practice session at The Cliff, the club's training headquarters, yesterday, watched by a large number of supporters. The workout finished with a proper match, giving the onlookers a glimpse of the final XI that will be entrusted with exploiting Inter's indifferent form. Barring last-minute disasters, United will field a full-strength side and, for once, there is no need for Ferguson to indulge in any mental kidology of his own.

Roy Keane, the United captain, spoke for all his teammates when he said: "We're not afraid of any team, anywhere. We began to take a closer look at Inter in training yesterday, but you can look at the opposition too much. We are concentrating on our strengths and we'll let them do the worrying."

His words suggest that the circumspection that enveloped the last appearance by United in the quarter-finals has been erased. Then, against AS Monaco last season, they were undone by virtue of the away goals rule.

"A win at home tomorrow is vital," Keane said. "We must not concede any goals, either. Italian teams are very good at coming to places and nicking one precious goal."

Inter believe that they can trouble the central defensive pairing of Jaap Stam and Ronny Johnsen. At training yesterday, Steve McClaren, the United first-team coach, emphasised the need for containment in a separate discussion with the defenders and the central midfield partnership of Keane and Scholes.

Edgar Davids, the Juventus midfield player, also spoke out on behalf of Stam, his teammate in the Holland national side. "It is laughable if Inter think that Jaap is slow," Davids said. "He has got the quality to cope with whatever they throw at him."

Ferguson has received a report on every Inter match since the draw for the quarter-finals was made, but he will urge his players to concentrate on their own game. He said: "We must learn from our experiences in previous European ties, about the dangers of counter-attacking and relaxing at crucial moments. Nor can we be overawed by the qualities that Inter present."

So important is this tie that the local newspaper in Manchester has brought out a souvenir supplement this week, detailing United's "glorious" European campaigns. Alas, it serves only to underline how inglorious most of them have been, but it is an anomaly that, to judge by the confidence around Manchester yesterday, the present players feel they can finally eradicate.

Branca gets all-clear

■ Six weeks after announcing the retirement of Marco Branca, Middlesbrough have agreed that the Italian striker can resume his career with them. Branca, 34, who sustained a serious knee injury last April, has been cleared to play by three surgeons.

■ France have agreed to play Northern Ireland at Windsor Park on August 18. The world champions are using the game as preparation for their European championship qualifying match against Ukraine in Kiev in early September.

■ Sunderland have submitted a planning application to increase the capacity of the Stadium of Light from 42,000 to 48,000 at a cost of £5.5 million.

FOOTBALL IN BRIEF

■ John Gorman, the former England assistant coach, has been appointed first-team coach at Ipswich Town. He succeeds Stewart Houston, who has moved to Tottenham Hotspur.

■ Lionel Perez, the Newcastle United goalkeeper, has returned to Tyneside after failing to agree personal terms with Lyons.

■ Chris Sutton, the Blackburn Rovers striker, promised yesterday that he would be at Ewood Park next season "whatever happens". Newspaper reports have linked Sutton with Chelsea.

ANGEL DIAZ



Toshack, Real Madrid's new coach, talks to his players before their European Cup match against Dynamo Kiev

Latin giants eye silverware

By Rob Hughes

Form, or facade? There is little kidology time left for coaches to indulge in before the European cup competitions resume over the next three nights.

Those messengers who marched up to Internazionale's Alpine camp and came down with confused information about the state of Ronaldo's knee were just the advance party. Right across the boundaries of the Uefa Cup, the European Cup and the Cup Winners' Cup there are high quality sides whose recent league performances would appear to have been designed to mislead, or have been the consequence of sudden change in management.

Italy and Spain will have a significant say, again, in the destination of the silverware, yet between the last round and the quarter-finals, four clubs — Real Madrid and Juventus, who contested the last European Cup final, plus Internazionale and Atlético Madrid — have dispensed with their coaches in an effort to make the players play.

These are big clubs living for the moment. They spend, sometimes more than they can afford, to amass resources capable of winning European tournaments and, on the eve of the knockout stage that brings such a welcome authenticity to cup football, they panic. It is a short-term fix. Of the new trainers — Mircea Lucescu at Inter, John Toshack at Real Madrid, Carlos Aguiar at Atlético and Carlo Ancelotti at Juventus — only Ancelotti knows that he will be in charge next season.

The rest are temporary and millionaire players, like irresponsible schoolboys, become lazy when the headmaster watching over them is not permanent.

> 'Toshack could be five games from glory'

We should not trust their league form and we must remember, for example, that the Real squad for the match against Dynamo Kiev is virtually the sameas that which won the European Cup last May and the World Club Cup in Tokyo in December. If Toshack gets the motivation right, he could be five games from glory.

At Inter, Lucescu (keeping the managerial seat warm for Marcello Lippi) has run into resentment among the staff, not least Taribo West, of Nigeria. However, even without Ronaldo, they have big-match winners in Roberto Baggio and Ivan Zamorano and while Inter's vulnerability down the flanks is well detailed, they have conceded the fewest goals — five — in Europe so far, in comparison with with Manchester United's 11.

Indeed, keeping the first leg tight is a virtue that has brought Italy 13 European trophies, including four European Cups, in the Nineties. The country has chances to win all three tournaments this year — with Inter or Juventus in the main event, Parma, AS Roma and Bologna in the Uefa Cup tonight and Lazio, the Serie A leaders, in the Cup Winners' Cup on Thursday.

According to Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United the Italians are professional pessimists who get their excuses in first and prepare unwary opponents for the sting. It is a myth that the competitions are weak. The presence of so many Latins, the best in Spain, Italy and France, as well as Bayern Munich, the leaders of the Bundesliga in Germany, is warning enough.

Then there is Kiev. Valeri Lobanovski, the old fox, saw his Dynamo side cut down by Juventus last year when, as usual, the harsh winter had deprived his squad of match fitness and, as usual, Kiev had sold players.

This time, it is different. Kiev have sold no one and Andrei Shevchenko and Sergei Rebrov are well paid, well fed and well wintered through 21 practice matches in Germany, Italy, Cyprus and Israel. If there is unfamiliarity between Toshack and his new team in Madrid, Dynamo will exploit it.

Nevertheless, in all competitions, there will be caution in the first leg — and players under caution. Manchester's best news might not be that Ronaldo missed the plane, but that seven Inter players — including Baggio and Diego Simeone, David Beckham's likely adversary — start the match under the inhibiting factor of a yellow card.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Hide sets date for defence

■ BOXING: Herbie Hide, the World Boxing Organisation heavyweight champion, will make the third defence of his title on April 3 at the Albert Hall, London, against an opponent yet to be announced.

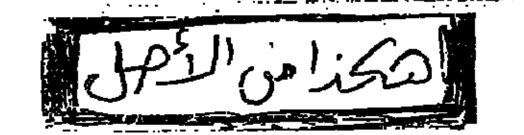
Hide has boxed only five rounds in the past two years, but he said yesterday: "I want a challenge, every human being wants a challenge. It's time, but it's not easy to get the fights." Hide is due to make a mandatory defence against Vitaly Klitschko, the European champion based in Germany, by the end of May.

■ BOWLS: Fourteen years have passed since the aptly-named Jean Bowles won the inaugural national Champion of Champions' title, but yesterday she steered Sue Jones and Pat Pearce, her Preston club-mates, to a 17-12 victory against Jean Morris, Kath Draper and Jill Edson, of Lincoln, in the EWIBA triples championship final at Exeter yesterday.

In the semi-finals of the Champion of Champions today, Helen Wall, from Church Gresley, will play Pat Bain, of Eastbourne, while Tina Burgess, of Wellingborough, takes on Theresa Darnell-Langton, from Basingstoke.

■ FOOTBALL: England will play Italy in the first semi-professional international of the season at Hayes tonight. ENGLAND (from): S Book (Cheltenham Town), P Gothard (Dagenham and Redbridge), S Shaw (Doncaster Rovers), A Comyn (Hednesford Town), M Smith (Stevenage Borough), T Ryan (Southport), M Danzey (Woking), S Wormull (Dover Athletic), P Underwood (Rushden and Diamonds), G Butterworth (Rushden and Diamonds), M Yates (Cheltenham Town), G Patterson (Kingstonian), L Charles (Hayes), D Watkins (Cheltenham Town), N Grayson (Cheltenham Town), W Patmore (Yeovil Town)

■ HOCKEY: The draw for the semi-finals of the EHA Cup yesterday saw Cannock given a home tie against Southgate, while Old Loughtonians will be at home to Reading. The ties will be played on April 25.



Wasps tie might have sting in its tail

BY MARK SOUSTER

GLOUCESTER lodged a complaint with the Rugby Football Union (RFU) last night over the proposed decision to switch their Tetley's Bitter Cup semi-final against Wasps from Good Friday to Easter Sunday.

Although the RFU is expected to adjudicate today, Gloucester do not believe that Wasps should be allowed to move the fixture simply because Queen's Park Rangers, with whom they ground share, are playing a Nationwide league first division match at Loftus Road on Easter Saturday.

John Hall, a club director, said: "Wasps knew the criteria for the draw well beforehand. If they could not play at home on Friday, they should have gone into the hat as an away team only." BSkyB had scheduled the two semi-finals, the second between Richmond and Newcastle at the Madejski Stadium on April 2 and 3. After a day of negotiations between Wasps and Twickenham that latterly also involved Tom Walkinshaw, the Gloucester owner, it seemed that April 4 with a 2.15pm start, was an ideal solution given that BSkyB, the television company, was happy to be flexible.

Originally, the RFU had wanted to stage both semi-finals as a double-header at Twickenham, but when that proved to be an unviable proposition, neutral venues were suggested, a scenario with which the clubs did not concur. After much horse-trading, home ties were accepted as long as the respective stadiums had a minimum capacity of 8,000. That presented a problem for Newcastle, whose ground holds only 6,000. Fortunately, they were drawn away.

In Wales, Cardiff and Swansea face possible expulsion from the SWALEC Cup after they failed to meet a deadline of last Sunday to pay fines of £150,000 imposed by the Wales Rugby Union for playing unofficial cross-border fixtures with leading English clubs. The general committee of the Welsh Rugby Union will discuss their fate on Thursday week.

SEMI-FINALS

Wasps v Gloucester
Date and venue to be confirmed

Richmond v Newcastle
Madejski Stadium, April 3

RUGBY UNION

Wales summon flanker bred in New Zealand

BY MARK SOUSTER

IT IS a sign of the times in Wales, where the fabled fly half factory has stopped production, that the latest models fill different positions and carry New Zealand number plates. First there was Shane Howarth, followed now by Brett Sinkinson, unheard of six months ago but selected on St David's Day to play against France.

An open-side flanker with Neath, Sinkinson, 28, will make his international debut in Paris on Saturday. He arrived in Wales last autumn after playing more than 50 times for Bay of Plenty. He was also a member of the Waikato Chiefs Super 12 squad. Remarkably, he will become the third New Zealand-born open-side to appear in the Five Nations Championship this season, after Martin Leslie, of Scotland, and Andy Ward, of Ireland.

Sinkinson qualifies through a grandfather from Trimsaran, the birthplace of Jonathan Davies, and is one of four changes to the team that started against Ireland at Wembley. Either through a lack of form, or fitness, Graham Henry, the Wales coach, has swept away his entire front row in an attempt to bolster the scrummage, an area where Wales have been brutally exposed and where they will be sorely tested by France.

Peter Rogers, of London Irish, another debutant, comes in at loose head for Darren Morris, after recovering from a knee ligament injury that kept him out of rugby for four months. Garin Jenkins, capped 39 times, made a visible difference as a replacement at Wembley and now starts ahead of Barry Williams, while David Young's suspect fitness rules him out at tight head. He is replaced by Ben Evans, Jenkins's Swansea colleague, who will begin an international for the first time. Robert Howley retains the captaincy in an unchanged back division. Allan Bateman, who is fit again, is among the replacements.

Sinkinson's rise to prominence is remarkable by any standard. He was spotted by Lynn Jones, the Neath coach, himself a former Wales No 7, playing last summer in Christchurch and, in conversations after the game, revealed he was Wales-qualified.

With Sinkinson's path blocked to a place in the All Blacks team, Jones had little trouble enticing the player to Neath, where he quickly established himself at club and representative level. He has played twice for Wales A this season.

"Brett has an ability to read the game which others here don't have. His tackling is second to none but it is his work after the tackle situation that marks him out," Jones said yesterday.

Rogers, of whom Henry is a keen admirer, would have made his Wales debut against South Africa last autumn had he not suffered a serious knee ligament injury. Rogers, born in Maidstone, of a Welsh father, has not been able to regain his club place from Neil Hatley, but that has not deterred Henry, who, on the back of a powerhouse performance against Ireland A at Donnybrook, had no hesitation in selecting him.

"It will be a huge challenge, but one you have to look forward to," Rogers said yesterday.

Another prop enjoying a new lease of life is Victor Ubogu, of Bath, who was called up yesterday into the 22-man England squad which leaves for the match in Dublin this morning. Ubogu, 34, and the holder of 21 caps, is the one change, coming in for Graham Rowntree, who is injured. Clive Woodward, the coach, said: "I considered Will Green, who remains in my plans, but Victor's selection is based on his excellent club form and his proven experience at this level." The team will be announced tomorrow.

DETAILS

WALES (v France in Paris, March 6): **S Howarth** (Sale), **M Robinson** (Swansea), **M Taylor** (Swansea), **S Gibbs** (Swansea), **D James** (Pontypridd); **N Jenkins** (Pontypridd), **R Howley** (Cardiff, captain), **P Rogers** (London Irish), **G Jenkins** (Swansea), **B Evans** (Swansea), **C Quinnell** (Richmond), **C Wyatt** (Llanelli), **C Charvis** (Swansea), **B Sinkinson** (Neath), **S Quinnell** (Llanelli). **Replacements:** **K Morgan** (Pontypridd), **A Bateman** (Richmond), **D Llewellyn** (Ebbw Vale), **M Voyle** (Llanelli), **C Anthony** (Swansea), **A Lewis** (Cardiff), **B Williams** (Richmond)

ENGLAND SQUAD (v Ireland in Dublin, March 6): **Backs:** **N Beal** (Northampton), **M Perry** (Bath), **D Rees** (Sale), **D Luger** (Harlequins), **J Wilkinson** (Newcastle), **J Guscott** (Bath), **M Catt** (Bath), **P Grayson** (Northampton), **M Dawson** (Northampton), **K Bracken** (Saracens). **Forwards:** **J Leonard** (Harlequins), **D Garforth** (Leicester), **V Ubogu** (Bath), **R Cockerill** (Leicester), **N McCarthy** (Gloucester), **M Johnson** (Leicester), **T Rodber** (Northampton), **D Grewcock** (Saracens), **L Dallaglio** (Wasps, captain), **N Back** (Leicester), **R Hill** (Saracens), **M Corry** (Leicester).


Rogers: Paris debut


WILLIAM WEST

Special delivery: Paul Adams, the South Africa spin bowler, follows the flight on the third day of the Test against New Zealand in Auckland. Buoyed by Daryll Cullinan's 275 not out, which surpassed the South African Test record set by Graeme Pollock 29 years ago by one run, the touring side declared on 621 for five. In reply, New Zealand were 205 for two

Derbyshire row resolved to suit Cork

BY RICHARD HOBSON

DOMINIC CORK, who asked to be released by Derbyshire little more than a month ago, has resolved his differences with the county and agreed to remain as captain for the next two seasons.

Andy Hayhurst, the director of coaching and development, has left by mutual consent, while Harold Rhodes, the former England fast bowler, has been omitted from a restructured cricket committee. Cork, the former England all-rounder, wanted both men removed from positions of influence on cricketing matters.

"I am so happy the differences have been sorted out and we have a structure that can allow us to concentrate our efforts towards leading Derbyshire towards a successful future," Cork, who believed his authority had been undermined by Rhodes and Hayhurst, said.

There remain matters to be resolved before the divisions that have made for a fractious close season are healed, however. A special general meeting called by a section of the membership wants the committee to resign en bloc over the handling of the Cork affair will go ahead next Tuesday.

A spokesman for Derbyshire said that it was thought to be in the best interests of both Hayhurst and the club for Hayhurst to leave the County Ground. He will be replaced by a cricket manager. Colin Wells, the second XI coach at Somerset, is believed to be a target. Kim Barnett will not feature in discussions, having agreed a three-year deal with Gloucestershire.

The manager will sit on a cricket committee alongside Les Elliott, the chairman, who played the leading role in brokering what he hopes will amount to a peace agreement, Cork, Karl Krikken, the vice-captain, and Andy Brown, the second XI coach.

Food poisoning hits under-19s

ENGLAND Under-19, weakened by food poisoning, suffered a six-wicket defeat in the one-day international against New Zealand Under-19 in Hamilton to lose the series 2-1.

Both teams and local officials were affected by sickness. England lost Ian Bell, Giles Haywood and Matt Whiley, while Matt Bulbeck was unable to take the field for the New Zealand innings after scoring 33 not out.

Dayle Hadlee, the New Zealand coach, believed that the illness was caused by food, probably chicken, served on Saturday during the second one-day international.

■ Michael Slater and Greg Blewett, members of the tour party to the West Indies, have been omitted from Australia's preliminary squad for the World Cup.

PRELIMINARY SQUADS: Australia: S R Waugh (captain), S K Warne (vice-captain), M G Bevan, A C Dale, D W Fleming, A C Gilchrist, J N Gillespie, I J Harvey, B P Julian, S G Law, S Lee, D S Lehmann, S C G MacGill, G D McGrath, D R Martyn, R T Ponting, P R Reiffel, M E Waugh, B E Young

South Africa: W J Cronje (captain), S M Pollock (vice-captain), G Kirsten, H H Gibbs, J H Kallis, D J Cullinan, J N Rhodes, L Klusener, N J Boje, M V Boucher, A A Donald, A Dawson, S Elworthy, D M Benkenstein, D N Crookes, P L Symcox, N Pothas, P R Adams, M Ntini

White returns early

JASON WHITE, the Glasgow Caledonians forward, who was suspended for 16 weeks last November for stamping on the head of Braam van Straaten, the South Africa fly half, has been included in the Scotland Under-21 side to play Italy Under-21 on Friday, just three days after completing his 112-day sentence (Alastair Reid writes).

White was cited for the offence, which took place during the Caledonians' game against the touring Springboks at Firhill, and has played no matches since.

Meanwhile, after confirmation that Jamie Mayer has agreed to join Bristol next season, a Scottish Rugby Union spokesman said yesterday that efforts to retain players in Scotland would be intensified. Amid a package of proposals being prepared, it is expected that some players will be offered contract extensions to the end of next season.

Michael Horak, the full back, has left Leicester to join Bob Dwyer, his former coach, at Bristol. Horak's contract was due to run out in July, but he was released early and registered before the transfer deadline last Thursday.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NBA): Milwaukee 76 Philadelphia 87; San Antonio 87 Utah 101, LA Lakers 106 Houston 90; Detroit 89 New York 68, Orlando 78 Miami 84, Minnesota 93 Portland 100; Phoenix 102 Golden State 89, Toronto 88 Chicago 90 (OT), Denver 116 Vancouver 112.

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Sunday result: Chester Jets 76 Newcastle Eagles 82.

BOWLS

EXETER: EWIBA indoor championships: Under-31 singles: Semi-finals: C Ashby (Eastbourne) bt S Seymour (City of Ely) 21-15, D Talbot (Barnsley Metrodome) bt K Hawes (Cherwell) 21-13. **Final:** Ashby bt Talbot 21-20. **Triples: Semi-finals:** S Jones, P Pearce, J Bowles (Preston) bt C Winter, B Whatford, K Strutt (Egham) 23-7, J Morris, K Draper, J Edson (Lincoln) bt J Whitlock, M Monkton, E Bessell (Yeovil) 18-9. **Final:** Preston bt Lincoln 17-12. **Champion of Champions singles: First round:** H Wall (Church Gresley) bt J Hadfield (Newquay) 21-9; V Mortimer (Swindon Westlecot) bt L Shorter (County Arts) 21-16; A Cox (Handy Cross) bt B Hope (Stonyhill) 21-17; P Bain (Eastbourne) bt W Line (Atherley) 21-14; T Burgess (Wellingborough) bt B Dudley (King George Field) 21-15, C Edmondson (Cumbria) bt A Knott (South Shields) 21-15; T Darnell-Langton (Loddon Vale) bt S Langdon (Minehead) 21-14; S McClintock (Royal Tunbridge Wells) bt D Wood (David Lloyd) 21-19. **Quarter-finals:** Wall bt Mortimer 21-16; Bain bt Cox 21-11; Burgess bt Edmondson 21-14, Darnell-Langton bt McClintock 21-16

CRICKET

One-day international
New Zealand Under-19 v England Under-19

HAMILTON (England Under-19 won toss): New Zealand Under-19 beat England Under-19 by six wickets to win series 2-1

ENGLAND UNDER-19

*M A Gough c & b Jansen	55
I N Flanagan run out	62
R J Logan c McNamee b Gillespie	0
M A Carberry c McGlashan b McSkimming	17
M P Bulbeck not out	33
R K J Dawson c Jansen b Shaw	0
J K Maunders b Shaw	6
M J Symington c McSkimming b Jansen	5
J R J Fearick lbw b Martin	0
† M A Wallace c Martin b Jansen	4
G Bridge st McGlashan b McSkimming	0
Extras (b 6, w 4, nb 10)	20
Total (46.4 overs)	202

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-105, 2-110, 3-138, 4-138, 5-139, 6-161, 7-170, 8-173, 9-195

BOWLING: Gillespie 8-0-43-1, Shaw 9-1-28-2, Martin 10-1-39-1, McSkimming 8.4-0-35-2; Franklin 3-0-21-0; Jansen 8-1-30-3

NEW ZEALAND UNDER-19

B Patton b Symington	5
M Papps b Logan	24
*J Englefield not out	81
J McNamee c & b Bridge	27
J Franklin run out	16
† P McGlashan not out	36
Extras (b 1, lb 1, w 6, nb 8)	16
Total (4 wkts, 46 overs)	205

W McSkimming, B Jansen, B Martin, M Gillespie and H Shaw did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-20, 2-44, 3-106, 4-135

BOWLING: Logan 8-2-35-1; Symington 8-0-50-1, Fearick 10-0-40-0; Bridge 10-0-40-1, Dawson 10-1-38-0

Umpires: A Hill and M McLean

TOUR MATCH: Port of Spain (third day of four): West Indies President's XI 177 (D Joseph 84; S C G MacGill 6-45) and 188 (S Ragoonath 53; MacGill 7-29). Australians 388 (M E Waugh 106, S R Waugh 57, R D King 5-75). Australia won by an innings and six runs

BUSTA CUP: Semi-final: Barbados: Jamaica 206 (T O Powell 114 not out; C Collymore 4-60) and 258 (C Gayle 53, N Perry 52; H R Bryan 5-72). Barbados 269 (S L Campbell 68, R I C Holder 62; Perry 5-64). Barbados need 196 to win.

ETON FIVES

VARSITY MATCH: Cambridge University bt Oxford University 3-0. N Shaw and R Bryan bt A Sentance and S Maker 3-0; A Taylor and J Grant-Peterkin bt G Nicholson and D Perks 3-2; J Birch and P Thompson bt D Dalhusan and M Palmer 3-0. **Cambridge Penguins bt Oxford Peppers 2-1:** P Macbain and S Maskell bt T Swerling and J Saadeh 3-1; A Lewis and T Record lost to C Shawcross and J Knight 2-3, E Dallas and S Reid-Henry bt J Parke and E Sen 3-0

FOOTBALL

FA UMBRO TROPHY DRAW: Quarter-final draw: Northwich v Kingstonian, Emley v Cheltenham, Forest Green Rovers v Woking or Southport; St Albans v Boston United.
☐ Ties to be played on March 27

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): NY Rangers 6 Philadelphia 5, Dallas 1 Los Angeles 0; Washington 4 Pittsburgh 3, New Jersey 4 Phoenix 1; Chicago 1 St Louis 3; Vancouver 0 Buffalo 2.

SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE: Sunday results: Bracknell 5 Nottingham 1; Cardiff 2 Manchester 1; London 2 Sheffield 2 (OT); Newcastle 3 Ayr 2.

GOLF

TUCSON, Arizona: Tucson Open: Leading final scores (United States unless stated): **276:** G Hjertstedt (Swe) 67, 68, 73, 68; T Armour 70, 69; 67, 70 (Hjertstedt won at first play-off hole). **277:** M Reid 71, 67, 71, 68, K Triplett 69, 69, 70, 69. **278:** B Gelberger 72, 68, 68, 70; B Cheesman 71, 68, 69, 72. **Other score: 280:** S Lyle (GB) 68, 70, 74.

LEADING MEN'S WORLD RANKINGS (United States unless stated): 1, T Woods 12.79pts; 2, D Duval 11.13; 3, D Love III 9.88; 4, Ernie Els (SA) 9.61; 5, M O'Meara 9.47; 6, L Westwood (GB) 9.07; 7, C Montgomerie (GB) 8.60, 8, V Singh (Fiji) 8.28, 9, N Price (Zim) 8.16; 10, J Leonard 7.44

HOCKEY

EHA Men's Cup: Semi-final draw: Cannock v Southgate; Old Loughtonians v Reading
☐ Ties to be played April 25

SCHOOLS SPORT

HOCKEY: Milton Abbey 11 Clayesmore 11; Haberdashers 1 Merchant Taylors', Northwood 4, Seaford 1 Hurstpierpoint 7. **British Aerospace National Schools Under-16 championships:** Canford, Dorset 1 Ipswich HS, Suffolk 0; John Taylor, Staffs 1 Arnold, Blackpool 0; Ipswich 2 Headington, Oxford 0, Arnold 0 Canford 1; Headington 0 John Taylor 2; Arnold 1 Ipswich 1; Canford 1 Headington 1; Ipswich 1 John Taylor 2; Headington 2 Arnold 1; John Taylor 0 Canford 1. **Final positions:** 1, Canford 10pts; 2, John Taylor 9; 3, Ipswich 4; 4, Arnold 4; 5, Headington 1

RUGBY: Daily Mail Under-18 Cup: Quarter-final: QEGS, Wakefield 37 King Edward's, Stratford 5. **Welsh schools league: Quarter-finals:** Llandovery College 35 Ysgol Y Strade 5; Ysgol Maes-yr-Yrfa 5 Tre-gib C.S 0; Ysgol Llanhari 36 Ysgol Glantaf 12, Neath College 12 Brynteg C S 6. **Christ College Brecon sevens: Semi-finals:** Millfield 0 Wellington 15, Christ College 39 St Joseph's 0. **Final:** Christ College 24 Wellington 7

SQUASH

FINNISH OPEN: Women: Semi-finals: M Zein (Egypt) bt E Bikra (Nor) 9-2, 9-6, 9-1; D Harris (Aus) bt K Paasivirta (Fin) 9-3, 9-3, 9-5

COLORADO: Women's Open: Semi-finals: L Joyce (NZ) bt J Thacker (Eng) 9-4, 9-5, 9-5; V Atkinson (Holl) bt S Macfie (Scot) 9-0, 9-1, 9-7. **Final:** Joyce bt Atkinson 9-4, 9-0, 6-9, 9-2.

LEADING MEN'S WORLD RANKINGS: 1, P Nicol (Scot); 2, J Power (Can). 3, A Barada (Egypt); 4, P Johnson (Eng). 5, M Heath (Scot), 6, S Parke (Eng); 7, D Jenson (Aus); 8, R Eyles (Aus). 9, A Gough (Wales). 10, C Walker (Eng).

SNOOKER

DERBY: Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge: Final: J Higgins (Scot) bt R O'Sullivan (Eng) 9-4

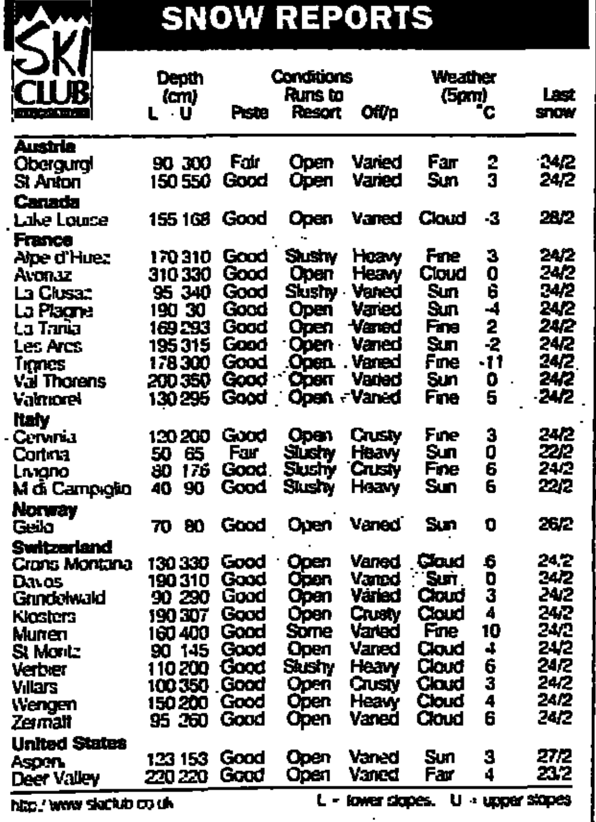
BANGKOK: Thailand Masters: First round: I McCulloch (Eng) bt P Ritthiprasong (Thai) 5-1, H Abernethy (Scot) bt A Mahitthi (Thai) 5-3, D Finbow (Eng) bt K Poomjang (Thai) 5-2, Chan Wai Tai (HK) bt D Reynolds (Eng)

TENNIS

BATTERSEA: Guardian Direct Cup: Doubles: Final: T Henman (GB) and G Rusedski (GB) bt B Black (Zim) and W Ferreira (SA) 6-3, 7-6

OKLAHOMA CITY: Super Thrift Classic: Final: V Williams (US) bt A Coetzer (SA) 6-4, 6-0

LEADING MEN'S WORLD RANKINGS: 1, P Sampras (US) 3449pts, 2, Y Kafelnikov (Russ) 3382; 3, A Corretja (Sp) 3250; 4, C Moyà (Sp) 3234, 5, P Rafter (Aus) 3138, 6, M Rios (Chile) 2880, 7, T Henman (GB) 2764; 8, R Krajicek (Holl) 2702, 9, A Agassi (US) 2583, 10, G Rusedski (GB) 2439



SNOW REPORTS — SKI CLUB

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Runs to Resort	Conditions Off/p	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
Austria								
Obergurgl	90	300	Fair	Open	Varied	Fair	2	24/2
St Anton	150	550	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	3	24/2
Canada								
Lake Louise	155	168	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	-3	28/2
France								
Alpe d'Huez	170	310	Good	Slushy	Heavy	Fine	3	24/2
Avoriaz	310	330	Good	Open	Heavy	Cloud	0	24/2
La Clusaz	95	340	Good	Slushy	Varied	Sun	6	24/2
La Plagne	190	30	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	-4	24/2
La Tania	169	293	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	2	24/2
Les Arcs	195	315	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	-2	24/2
Tignes	178	300	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	-11	24/2
Val Thorens	200	350	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	0	24/2
Valmorel	130	295	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	5	24/2
Italy								
Cervinia	120	200	Good	Open	Crusty	Fine	3	24/2
Cortina	50	65	Fair	Slushy	Heavy	Sun	0	22/2
Livigno	80	176	Good	Slushy	Crusty	Fine	6	24/2
M di Campiglio	40	90	Good	Slushy	Heavy	Sun	6	22/2
Norway								
Geilo	70	80	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	0	26/2
Switzerland								
Crans Montana	130	330	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	6	24/2
Davos	190	310	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	0	24/2
Grindelwald	90	290	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	3	24/2
Klosters	190	307	Good	Open	Crusty	Cloud	4	24/2
Murren	160	400	Good	Some	Varied	Fine	10	24/2
St Moritz	90	145	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	4	24/2
Verbier	110	200	Good	Slushy	Heavy	Cloud	6	24/2
Villars	100	350	Good	Open	Crusty	Cloud	3	24/2
Wengen	150	200	Good	Open	Heavy	Cloud	4	24/2
Zermatt	95	260	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	6	24/2
United States								
Aspen	123	153	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	3	27/2
Deer Valley	220	220	Good	Open	Varied	Fair	4	23/2

http://www.skiclub.co.uk — L = lower slopes. U = upper slopes

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
* denotes all-ticket

Uefa Cup
Quarter-finals, first leg
Atlético Madrid v AS Roma (8.30)
Bologna v Lyons (4.30)
Bordeaux v Parma (6.30)
Marseilles v Celta Vigo (8.15)

FA Carling Premiership
Tottenham v Southampton (7.45)

Nationwide League
First division
Birmingham v Norwich (7.45)
Bury v Wolverhampton (7.45)
*Crewe v Bristol City (7.45)
Huddersfield v Bolton (7.45)
Ipswich v Watford (7.45)
Port Vale v Grimsby (7.45)
Sheffield Utd v Crystal Palace (7.45)
Sunderland v Portsmouth (7.45)
West Bromwich v Stockport (7.45)

Second division
*Bournemouth v Fulham (7.45)
Bristol Rovers v Wycombe (7.45)
Chesterfield v Millwall (7.45)
Macclesfield v Stoke (7.45)
Northampton v Wrexham (7.45)

Third division
Darlington v Exeter (7.45)
Leyton Orient v Torquay (7.45)

Auto Windscreens Shield
Northern section
Semi-final
Rochdale v Wigan (7.45)

Scottish League
Third division
Ross County v East Stirling

SEMI-PROFESSIONAL INTERNATIONAL MATCH: England v Italy (at Hayes FC)

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Rothwell v Worcester City. **Southern division:** Ashford v Chelmsford; Bashley v Witney. **Midland division:** Blakenall v Cinderford; Redditch v Evesham; Stourbridge v Solihull Boro. **Dr Martens Cup: Third round:** Bedworth Utd v Sutton Coldfield. **Third-round replay:** Bilston Town v Burton Albion

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Gainsborough v Whitby, Lancaster v Altrincham; Leigh RMI v Chorley. **Challenge Cup: Fourth round:** Accrington Stanley v Guiseley. Stalybridge Celtic v Burscough

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Aylesbury v Heybridge, Boreham Wood v Slough; Bromley v St Albans. **First division:** Grays v Braintree, Leatherhead v Wealdstone, Leyton Pennant v Berkhamsted, Oxford City v Whyteleafe, Uxbridge v Yeading. **Second division:** Banstead v Harlow; Bracknell v Thame Utd; Hemel Hempstead v Wivenhoe; Hungerford v Hertford, Windsor and Eton v Horsham. **Third division:** Cheshunt v Croydon Athletic, Clapton v Egham; Corinthian-Casuals v Aveley; Flackwell Heath v Camberley Town, Tilbury v Hornchurch, Ware v Ford Utd. **Puma Cup: Fourth round:** Hitchin v Purfleet. **Vandanel Trophy: Fourth round:** Tooting and Mitcham v Epsom and Ewell

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Queens Park Rangers v Charlton

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Derby v Leeds (7.0). Everton v Blackburn (at Widnes RLFC, 7.0). **Third division:** Halifax v Hull (2.0)

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Premier division: Beckenham v Sheppey. Greenwich v Chatham; Herne Bay v Faversham, Ramsgate v Thamesmead, Slade Green v Tunbridge Wells

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Halesowen H v Willenhall, Kings Norton v Sandwell, W Mid Police v Wednesfield

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: Floodlit Trophy: Third round: Atherton Collieries v Clitheroe

OTHER SPORT

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: London Knights v Manchester Storm (7.0)

POOLS FORECAST

Saturday March 6

Coupon no. game. forecast

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP
1 Coventry v Charlton 1
2 South'ptn v West Ham X
3 Wimbledon v Leicester 2

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION
4 Birm'ham v Portsmth 1
5 Bury v C Palace 2
6 Crewe v Grimsby 1
7 Ipswich v Tranmere 1
8 Port Vale v Bradford 2
9 QPR v Wolves 1
10 Sunderland v Norwich 1
11 Swindon v Bolton 2
12 West Brom v Oxford X

SECOND DIVISION
13 Bristol R v York 1
14 Fulham v Lincoln 1
15 Gillingham v Preston 1
16 Man City v North'ptn 1
17 Millwall v Notts Co 1
18 Oldham v Bourn'm'th X
19 Reading v Macclesf'ld 1
20 Walsall v Luton 1
21 Wigan v Burnley 1
22 Wrexham v Chest'field X
23 Wycombe v Colch'ter 2

THIRD DIVISION
24 Carlisle v Shrewsbury 2
25 Darlington v Brentford X
26 Exeter v Cambridge 2
27 Hull v Mansfield X
28 Leyton O v Rochdale 1
29 Peterboro v Hartlepool 1
30 Rotherham v Barnet 1
31 Scarboro v Plymouth X
32 Scunth'pe v Brighton 1
33 Southend v Swansea X
34 Torquay v Halifax 1

SCOTTISH LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION
35 Alloa v Partick 1
36 Arbroath v Invern's CT 2
37 Clyde v Forfar 1
38 East Fife v Livingston 2
39 Q of South v Stirling A 1

THIRD DIVISION
40 Albion v Montrose 1
41 Brechin v Cowdenb'th 1
42 Dumb'ton v E Stirling X
43 Stenh'r v Queen's P 1

NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE
44 Barrow v Cheltenham 2
45 Dover v Forest Green 1
46 Farnboro v Welling 2
47 Hayes v Rushden X
48 Hereford v Telford 1
49 Kid'minster v Hed'ford 1

TREBLE CHANCE (home teams): Southampton, West Bromwich, Oldham, Wrexham, Darlington, Hull, Scarborough, Southend, Dumbarton, Hayes.
BEST DRAWS: Southampton, Oldham, Wrexham, Scarborough, Southend.
AWAYS: Crystal Palace, Bradford City, Colchester, Shrewsbury, Inverness Caledonian.
HOMES: Coventry, Ipswich, Sunderland, Bristol Rovers, Fulham, Manchester City, Millwall, Scunthorpe, Torquay
FIXED ODDS: Homes: Coventry, Ipswich, Scunthorpe, Albion, Stenhousemuir. **Aways:** Crystal Palace, Bradford City, Shrewsbury. **Draws:** Wrexham, Scarborough, Southend.
■ Vince Wright

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 44

ABA
(c) Or *abba*. A sleeveless outer garment, resembling a sack with openings for the head and arms, worn by Arabs. The Arabic word has a long second "a". "Galileans in his league, carrying short swords under their long abas."

GABOON
(c) A hardwood from the tree *Aucoumea klaineana*. Also used attributively, as in "gaboon adder" or "viper". A toponym of the province and river in West Africa.

BURTON
(b) A term denoting the thwartship stowage of casks, bags, etc. "I have both stowed and worked out Burtons many scores of times during the 25 years I spent along the east End waterside."

GALERE
(b) A coterie or circle. A (usually undesirable) set of people. An unpleasant place or situation. In French the word means literally "a galley". "If it comes to ruling ideas what was Newman doing in a galère which contained Goethe and Sainte-Beuve?"

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE
1 ... Rxh2+!; 2 Kxh2 Qf2+; 3 Kh3 g4+!; 4 fxg4 Rh5 checkmate



ROWING

Cambridge aim to hit the heights

BY MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT

BRAD CROMBIE, the Cambridge president, and Charlie Humphreys, his Oxford counterpart, breathed a sigh of relief yesterday when, at the Boat Race crew announcement, they were able to name themselves as participants in the race this year on April 3. Over the past three years, two Cambridge presidents and one from Oxford have had to confront the Press with the news that they had not made the "cut".

The Boat Race can be watched by a potential overseas audience of 400 million and the fact that ten of the 18 athletes named yesterday were non-British is likely to add to the international interest. Against that, those who argue that the Boat Race should be a nursery for Great Britain internationals should note that of the other eight, coxes included, seven are already on the Britain international ladder, two at senior level, three at under-23 level and two among the juniors.

The only exception is Vian Sharif, the Cambridge woman cox. Add to this the fact that six competitors out of the two crews have achieved full senior international status, with five different countries, and the Boat Race can justifiably be called an international event, although it is raced on a course far from international requirements.

Oxford have picked up most of the internationals this year in their quest to stop a run of six Cambridge wins and so become the first winners of the Aberdeen Asset Management Trophy. Their boat includes three former Blues — Henrik Nilsson, a Sweden international, Andrew Lindsay, of Britain, and Humphreys.

The newcomers are impressive: there are three full senior internationals in Colin von Ettingshausen, from Germany, Martin Crotty, of the United States — who was the strongest from either squad when he won the British under-23 indoor championships last November — and Morgan Crooks, of Canada. Add to these Toby Ayer, of the United States, twice an Isis performer, and Dan Snow, the youngest man in the boat at 20, and the line-up looks solid, a fact emphasised by the fact that James Roycroft and Nick Robinson, the stroke, both members of the fast Oxford crew last year, have failed to make it. Neil O'Donnell, the American cox, earned his spurs by steering Isis to victory last year.

Cambridge have three former Blues among their number. Brad Crombie, a Canada international, is coming to his third Boat Race, having rowed on different sides in 1997 and 1998. Graham Smith, who competed for Britain at the Olympic Games in 1996, and Toby Wallace, a home-grown Cambridge product, are both in line for their second Blues.

Robin Williams, the Cambridge coach, has shown his liking for height with his selection. The Cambridge line-up is the tallest ever, with Josh West, of the United States, setting an individual Boat Race record at 6ft 9in. Kieran West, an under-23 world championships gold medal-winner for Britain, is only an inch shorter, but his lean frame has strength, as his second place behind Crotty in the British indoor championships proved.

David Ellis, the second American in the Cambridge crew, came to the Light Blues' notice when his Harvard crew beat them at Henley last year. He has been forgiven and assimilated. Tim Wooge has represented Germany at under-23 level. The line-up is completed by Tom Stallard, Cambridge's youngest performer and a junior world championship bronze medal-winner for Britain in 1996.

Both crews have pace and potential, although only Oxford have shown this in public, when they beat Molesey ten days ago. The build-up starts in earnest this weekend, when Cambridge race London Rowing Club and Oxford confront Tideway Scullers. Neither coach has finalised the crew order for this, the 145th Boat Race.



HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Long, short and uniquely tall: Sharif, the Cambridge cox, is flanked by Kieran West, left, and Josh West, the tallest Boat Race oarsman

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY	OXFORD UNIVERSITY
*T J Wallace (King Edward VI, Southampton and Jesus), 22, 6ft 7in, 15st 7lb (bow)	*C P A Humphreys (Hampton and Oriel), 22, 6ft 3½in, 13st 1lb (bow)
T A Stallard (Oundle and Jesus), 20, 6ft 3½in, 13st 8lb	*L H Nilsson (Cathedral School, Lund, University of Lund and Hertford), 30, 6ft 3¼in, 14st 1lb
*R E B Crombie (Crescent, Toronto, McGill Univ and Peterhouse), 28, 6ft 6in, 15st 4lb	D R Snow (St Paul's and Balliol), 20, 6ft 6in, 15st 9lb
A J West (Santa Fe Preparatory, New Mexico, Yale and Caius), 22, 6ft 9in, 15st 2lb	T H Ayer (Burlington HS, Vermont, MIT Massachusetts and Worcester), 24, 6ft 5in, 15st 9lb
D O M Ellis (Milton Acad, Harvard and Trinity), 23, 6ft 5in, 14st 6lb	M Crotty (Canisius HS, Buffalo, Princeton Univ and Keble), 23, 6ft 5in, 14st 12lb
K M West (Dulwich and Christ's), 21, 6ft 8in, 14st 11lb	M A L Crooks (Brentwood College, Mill Bay and St Anne's), 22, 6ft 2in, 14st 1lb
*G D C R Smith (Westminster, University College London and St Edmund's), 23, 6ft 3¾in, 14st 5lb	*A J R Lindsay (Eton and Brasenose), 22, 6ft 1in, 14st 3lb
T Wooge (Otto-Pankok-Schule, Dortmund Univ, Northeastern Univ, US and Magdalene), 26, 6ft 7¾in, 15st 4lb (stroke)	C von Ettingshausen (Gymnasium Gerresheim, Dortmund Univ and Keble), 27, 6ft 4½in, 15st 2lb (stroke)
Cox: V Sharif (Lady Eleanor Holles and Clare), 19, 5ft, 7st 6lb	Cox: N J O'Donnell (St Joseph's Cl, Buffalo, Rutgers Univ and Keble), 23, 5ft 9in, 8st 8lb
*denotes Blue	*The order of the crews have not been finalised*

Maggert makes matchplay million



Greetings from La Costa, where Jeff Maggert chipped in from 20ft to pocket $1 million, the biggest cheque of his life, in the inaugural Andersen Consulting Match Play Championship on Sunday. Money, money, money. "I thought about the money all day," Andrew Magee, who lost to Maggert at the second extra hole in the 36-hole final said. Poor Magee. He won only $500,000.

If your pockets are deeply lined and you covet a facial for £60, La Costa is the place for you. A playground for the rich, its fairways are ringed by houses of every size and type and its clanging tills and extensive facilities put one in mind of The Belfry — although when last seen, there was no one there offering to slap some goo on your face for £30 a cheek and label it "therapeutic mud that has a 40,000 year union with nature and time".

At this time of the year, the temperature varies by 40F between midnight and midday. The players in the first event of the World Golf Championship blew hot and cold, too. Though the tournament was a welcome addition to the calendar, it would benefit from some fine tuning before it returns here next year.

At $50 a day, the tickets were expensive, which might account for the comparatively small crowds. There were more spectators watching Sergio Garçia win the final of the Amateur Championship at Muirfield last summer than watched any one of the matches on the first day. There was never any difficulty in being able to see from behind the ropes, even if the match involved Tiger Woods.

One of the truisms of golf is that, in strokeplay events, the best players win those tournaments held on the most difficult courses. The course here was not difficult enough.

Ideally, it would have been better to have played one round on Friday and two on Saturday, but television wanted to build in some spare time at the weekend in case the weather was bad. That consideration apart, playing the quarter-finals and semi-finals on Saturday would have been more exciting and might have done more to draw the crowds. A British voice, one steeped in the lore of matchplay, would have added an extra dimension to the television coverage of ABC.

Nevertheless, this tournament bore out the basic truth of matchplay conducted over 18 holes, namely that it is an imprecise science. Almost everyone had an opinion as to why there had been such a culling of seeds that the final was played between the world No 24 and No 50 in a field of 64. The most common verdict was "that's matchplay", although Steve Pate put it rather better.

"Matchplay is good for me," Pate, a losing semi-finalist, said. "I figure I've got a better chance of beating these guys over one day than I have over four." Over a beer, Dave Musgrove, the Englishman who caddies for Lee Janzen, was asked whether the players were enjoying the event.

Musgrove rubbed his face and pondered the question. "They seemed to," he said. "All I know is how Lee and [Phil] Mickelson came off the 8th green talking and laughing to themselves about how the holes had gone first this way, then that. They liked that."

To many Americans, matchplay is incomprehensible, like cricket, the House of Lords and the geographical division of the home countries. "I'm from Wales," Ian Woosnam said when he checked in at a tournament recently. "Ah yes," the American lady said. "That's in England, right?"

The scoreboard for one early match in the tournament described the leader as being "Up one". One spectator was overheard asking another: "Why did he pick his ball up?" On the morning of the final, I heard two men talking. "Do both guys play two rounds? one asked. "I'm not sure," came the reply. "I guess so."

The following sentence appeared in one of the most august newspapers in this country. "A definition of matchplay: if player A gets a 3 on the first hole and player B gets a 4, player B is one up after one hole." How have they explained what has been going on in the Ryder Cup?

These sort of vignettes are in danger of obscuring an important truth, however. This was an enjoyable tournament that has endured an unusual birth. It needs nourishing. It should be here to stay.




Maggert, left, celebrates with his caddie after holing the chip shot worth $1 million

TELEVISION CHOICE

Hollywood beckons

Close Up: LA Stories
BBC2, 9.30pm

Although James Nutt and Roder Parsons's film is scrupulous in emphasising that 95 per cent of Hollywood screenwriters cannot make a living from it, and even fewer ever have a film made of their work, it seems bound to encourage winter-weary viewers at least to consider adding to the tens of thousands of Britons who now seek the American Dream in Los Angeles. We see four examples of what they can expect: one overnight success, one consistent earner who is evidently on an upward curve, one rather cavalier chap who can take it or leave it and one absolute beginner with nothing more than an idea and a bank loan. Even struggling in obscurity looks good, and the glimpses of what success can bring are seductive, even though it appears (quite accurately) that getting anywhere in LA involves a very long drive. Where did I put that plot outline I came up with?

The Bill
ITV, 8pm

The first of a three-part special, written by Scott Cherry, centres on a series of assaults on pensioners. A gang of burglars are dousing the victims in petrol and threatening to torch them unless they hand over all their money and valuables, and are now carrying firearms. The aggressive DS Boulton is about to go on leave, but cancels that to take charge when he senses a possible arrest. His colleagues and juniors are less convinced that he has the right suspect, or sufficient evidence, and the subsequent raid puts a young informant in serious danger. Tonight's episode ends with PC Quinnan (Andrew Paul) in critical condition after he is set upon by a gang of youths.

House Proud
BBC2, 8pm (except Scotland)

A new series, produced and directed by Robert Payton, follows the progress, over a year, of people who want to build their own homes. Tonight we meet the Shrimptons, who have a large plot of land, a top-of-the-range timber-framed kit house and a well respected small local building firm; Jan Tempest, who has three old Portakabins, the paddock of her mother's farm and a feng shui consultant; and the Spaffords, who have quite a lot of money, part of somebody's garden and a diligent, inventive young architect. Unlike tonight's Close Up film, this is unlikely to stir in viewers a longing to embark on the adventure of self-build. **Tony Patrick**



PC Quinnan (Andrew Paul) comes under attack in *The Bill* (ITV, 8pm)

Journeys Into the Outside with Jarvis Cocker
Channel 4, 11.10pm

In his third and final expedition into the world of extraordinary art created by ordinary people, the pop singer visits Mexico. Cocker travels to a *remote mountainous area known as Xilitla, where* in 1945 Edward James, a wealthy Englishman and friend of Salvador Dali, decided to build a Surreal world of his own. What remains is a bizarre collection of buildings, gardens, fountains and statues which Cocker extols as a fine example of his Outsider Art. The singer then pops to Zurich and to the home of one Bruno Weber. His gardens are filled with mosaic creatures including a pair of brightly decorated "snake bridges". **Ian Hughes**

RADIO CHOICE

Afternoon Play: People Come Here to Cry
Radio 4, 2.15pm

If you would not mind if you never heard the word counselling again, this is for you. It is also for anyone wishing to hear a virtuoso acting performance, which is what we get from Sue Johnston in this monologue, Char March's first play for radio (but hopefully not her last). Johnston plays Deborah Smith, an ordinary woman from Barnsley who has reached a point in her life where she is emotionally wrung out. Her instinct seems to be against finding help, but she does so anyway and fetches up at a counselling centre in Oldham, in a room overlooking a municipal green, which is *"as nurtured as a roundabout"*. Such witty observation leavens what is a poignant, compelling commentary on our times.

Virus — The Unseen Enemy
Radio 4, 9pm

As a subject for a four-part radio series, the virus may not at first seem like a prime candidate. But it is suprising how interesting the little devils are. It *is not so many years since the medical establish*ment felt optimistic about the chances of eliminating infectious diseases altogether, yet the virus remains the allcomers champion at killing people. So much so that much of medical opinion, as the first programme shows, now believes that viruses are here to stay, that they will never be conquered and that, in their most virulent forms, they will continue to shape our history in a way undreamt of by politicians. We discover tonight that whereas sneezing is a symptom to us, it is the route to survival for a virus. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00pm** Jo Whiley **2.00** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Chris Moyles **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Dave Pearce. Chart hits **8.00** The Evening Session. The latest music and session tracks **10.00** Digital Update **10.10** John Peel **12.00am** The Breezeblock **2.00** Clive Warren **4.00** Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00pm** Juliet Morris **2.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** Johnnie Walker **7.00** Alan Freeman: Their Greatest Bits **8.00** Nigel Ogden **9.00** To Mother with Love: The Story of the Tattoo **10.00** *The Directors: Nora Ephron (3/6)* **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.00am** Lynn Parsons **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00pm** The Midday News **1.00** Ruscoe and Co **4.00** Drive **7.00** News Extray **7.30** The Tuesday Match. Action from tonight's Nationwide League programme, including Barnsley v Bradford, Birmingham City v Norwich City and Ipswich Town v Watford. Plus, updates on this evening's Uefa Cup quarter-final first-leg matches **10.00** Late Night Live **1.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm & Sally James **12.00pm** Crime Beat **1.00** Anna Raeburn **4.00** The Sports Zone **8.00** Cheating Hearts **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

VIRGIN

6.30am Russ Williams **9.30** Mark Forrest **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **6.45** Pete and Geoff **10.00** James Merritt **1.00am** Steve Power **4.30** Richard Allen

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Outlook **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** Performance **8.20** Off the Shelf: Captain Corelli's Mandolin **8.35** Discovery **9.00** World News **9.05** The Moonstone **9.20** Junction Box **9.50** Sports Round-Up **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** Britain Today **10.45** Good Books **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Omnibus **12.00pm** World News **12.05** Outlook **12.45** Sports Round-Up **1.00** Newshour **2.00** World News **2.05** Discovery **2.30** On Screen **3.00** World News **3.05** Sports Round-Up **3.15** Westway **3.30** Everywoman **4.00** World News **4.15** Insight **4.30** Megamix **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Round-Up **6.00** World News **6.15** Britain Today **6.30** Omnibus **7.00** World News **7.05** Discovery **7.30** Human Remains **7.45** Off the Shelf: Captain Corelli's Mandolin **8.00** Newshour **9.00** World News **9.05** World Business Report **9.20** Britain Today **9.30** Meridian Live **10.00** World News **10.15** Sports Round-Up **10.30** Megamix **11.00** World News **11.05** Outlook **12.00am** The World Today **12.30** Discovery **12.55** My Century **1.00** The World Today **1.30** On Screen **2.00** The World Today **2.30** Women Who Dared To Speak **3.00** The World Today **3.20** Sports Round-Up **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. Soothing music and information updates **8.00** Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour and CD of the Week **12.00pm** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones introduces listeners' favourites **2.00** Concerto. Wieniawski (Violin Concerto No 1 in F sharp minor) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance **6.30** Newsnight. Sport, finance and news updates, with John Brunning **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces classical sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Shostakovich (Jazz Suite No 2; Piano Concerto No 2; 3 Romances on Poems by Pushkin; Symphony No 15 in A major; A Spin Through Moscow) **11.00** Mann at Night. Music through till the small hours **2.00am** Concerto. Wieniawski (Violin Concerto No 1 in F sharp minor) (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths. The Early Breakfast Show

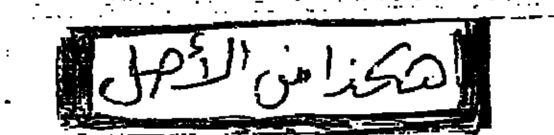
RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Petroc Trelawny
9.00 Masterworks Includes Verdi (Overture: The Force of Destiny); Paganini (Le streghe); Brahms (Alto Rhapsody); Schubert (Piano Sonata in C minor)
10.30 Artist of the Week: Bernard Haitink
11.00 Sound Stories: Family Affairs Shostakovich
12.00pm Composer of the Week: Tchaikovsky
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Martyn Brabbins and Osmo Vanska, Pekka Kuusisto, violin
4.00 Voices Simon Keenlyside (r)
4.45 Music Machine with Tommy Pearson
5.00 In Tune with Sean Rafferty. Includes Albeniz (Suite: Iberia); Copland (Clarinet Concerto)
7.00 Performance on 3 (Sounding the Century) Live from the Festival Hall, London. Ensemble InterContemporain, Philharmonia under Pierre Boulez. Schoenberg (Chamber Symphony No 1); Webern (Five Pieces for Small Orchestra, Op 10); Schoenberg (Lied der Waldtaube, Gurrelider) **8.15** Pierre Boulez (r) **8.35** Mahler (Ruckert-Lieder); Schoenberg (Variations for orchestra)
9.30 Postscript: Cultural Nationalism (2/5)
9.55 Britten-Pears Ensemble With Iain Burnside, piano. Prokofiev (Overture on Hebrew Themes); Martin (Piano Quintet); Johann Strauss, son, arr Schoenberg (Kaiser-Walzer) (r)
10.45 Night Waves A look at the long-awaited return of the film director Terrence Malick
11.30 Jazz Notes Alyn Shipton presents the more from John Etheridge's tribute to Stephane Grappelli
12.00am Composer of the Week: Copland (r)
1.00 Through the Night

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today 6.00 Today
8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament
9.00 Unreliable Evidence with Clive Anderson
9.30 Home Thoughts Nick Baker peruses *The Journal*
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
9.45 (FM) Serial: Zarala (2/5)
10.00 Woman's Hour with Martha Kearney
11.00 Nature with Howard Stableford (r)
11.30 Coming Alive by Jim Eldridge
12.00pm (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News 12.04 You and Yours
1.00 The World at One 1.30 My Mistress Music
2.00 The Archers Broadcast yesterday (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: People Come Here to Cry Char March's monologue. See Choice (r)
3.00 The Exchange 0870 010 0444
3.30 First Nights (r) **3.45 This Sceptred Isle** (r)
4.00 The Learning Curve with the *Times* columnist Libby Purves **4.30 Shop Talk**
5.00 PM with Clare English and Chris Lowe
6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Mammon (3/6)
7.00 The Archers Pat refuses to stay put
7.15 Front Row with Francine Stock
7.45 The Cry of the Bittern (r)
8.00 File on 4 8.40 In Touch with Peter White
9.00 Virus: the Unseen Enemy See Choice (1/4)
9.30 Unreliable Evidence (r)
10.00 *The World Tonight* Presented by Justin Webb
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Ernest Hemingway Centenary — The Sun Also Rises (r)
11.00 Late Night on 4: The Alan Davies Show (r)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament
11.30 (FM) Talking Pictures Weekly guide to films
12.00am News 12.30 The Late Book: Five Stories by Anton Chekhov — A Play (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.



A perfect mixture of bonds and betrayals

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

As Adrian Shergold's camera peers up at him through the keyhole of a manhole cover (look, by this stage of BBC2's **Births, Marriages and Deaths** we have not only grown used to cameras held at angles unknown to Euclid, we would be disappointed to be now denied them), Ray Winstone's Alan shares with his mate Graham a metaphysical conundrum not previously chewed upon by Aristotle.

"You know," he starts hesitantly, "you can't build sandcastles out of dry sand, and, well, you can out of wet sand? But how comes a sandcastle can still stand even though the sun dries it out?"

"Dunno," replies Phil Davis's Graham, a human cocktail made from equal measures of gormlessness, grief and rage. Graham has never swum effortlessly through life. He is now barely managing to keep his head above water, having just discovered that his wife — his schoolgirl sweetheart — had had a baby at 15, given up for adoption. Oh yes, and the council has just sacked him from his job as a ratcatcher.

"It's friendship, mate. Yer know? Friendship. Don't mock it. I'm your friend. I can hold everything together, if you let me." But even Alan can't hold everything together. Fate has a way of slapping you in the face, whoever you and your friends are, and the joy of Tony Grounds's drama is the elegant, funny, tragic way it captures how quickly a life — any life — can unravel. When life trips you up, it doesn't feel as if you're falling off a kerb, it feels as if you're falling off Beachy Head. "I wish," stammers Graham, struggling to give some shape to his confusion, "I was someone else. Anybody else. Look around, everything's so . . . normal, and . . . and I'm the only one in agony."

Graham, still inarticulate with rage, later slips back to his council flat to — one assumes — end his own life. His wife, Molly, and Alan track him down there. They find him standing in a wheelie-bin full of cement. "Why," shrieks Molly, "would you want to set yourself in concrete?" Graham seems taken aback, like a man who — halfway through an errand — can't for the life of him remember what the errand was. "I dunno," he croaks, finally. "I s'pose I just didn't know what else to do."

Alan — who knows a bit about the building trade, having made his pile in patios — takes some solace from the fact that the proportions of sand to cement that Graham used meant that he could have been standing there till Christmas and the mixture still wouldn't have hardened; also from the fact that Graham had carefully surrounded the area with plastic sheets to avoid staining the carpets. The comedic undertow flavours but never overpowers the drama.

The plot? It's as carefully arranged as an ambassador's dining table. Twists, tensions, bonds and betrayals are deftly woven together so that their repercussions are rarely Tannoyed to us in advance. Even when we know that Alan will have to pay a price after confessing to his wife about visiting prostitutes, we can't count on knowing where, or when, or in what circumstances he will have to pay it. When Terry (Mark Strong) decided last night to take up Alan's offer of a job, but then later obeyed his wife over Alan, you knew that sooner or later Terry would have to pay for his betrayal, but you would never be able to guess how.

And when Alan craves a red Corniche in the window of a Rolls-Royce showroom at the start of the episode, you might have imagined that he would end up buying it. But you would never have dreamt that in the final scene it would by Terry's wife's body smashing against the Corniche's windscreen as Alan accidentally hits her in his rush to the police station to sort out the arrest of his daughter for trespass. It's like playing chase the lady with a card-sharp and being caught napping, again and again. Staggeringly good.

But life is every bit as unpredictable as fiction. Dr Robert Ballard also had no inkling of the likely consequences of his discovery in 1985 of the wreck of *Titanic*. Having devoted his life to finding the most famous wreck in the world — yes, even more famous than Keith Richards — Ballard is now one of the loudest voices opposing the lifting of artefacts from the wreck.

In Channel 4's entertaining film, **To The Ends of The Earth: The Battle for Titanic** — which seemed to lend support to Lew Grade's conclusion that when it comes to raising *Titanic* it can work out to be far less trouble to lower the Atlantic — Ballard likens it to "stripping the old lady of her jewellery in her grave".

Ballard clearly had no idea that his discovery would result in greed, obsession, Cold War intrigue, a cheesy TV special featuring some of the recovered relics hosted by a tuxedoed Telly Savalas, courtroom battles, and Celine Dion. These in turn spawned their own unexpected *Titanic* consequences, including (a) more Britons choosing Celine Dion singing the theme tune to the movie, *Titanic*, as their preferred choice of music at their funerals; and (b) worldwide fascination in Kate Winslet's bodyweight.

Yet more unexpected consequences in **Tribe: The King of The Car Park**, a new BBC2 series about the way young people lead their lives; the main unexpected consequence being that those young boys and girls you coo over in their cots might one day grow up into teenagers like Matthew and his pals, who think that spending your evenings in the McDonald's car park in Harlow burning the tread off your dad's car tyres constitutes an enthralling social life. Even Graham's life has more going for it than this.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (14734)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (50463)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (2984111)
9.45 The Vanessa Show (T) (7442173)
10.55 News; Weather (T) (3433937)
11.00 Change That (3443314)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (3413173)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (7391111)
12.00pm Call My Bluff (21802)
12.30 Wipeout (4974869)
12.55 The Weather Show (T) (53018869)
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (53550)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (59930444)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (35070802)
2.05 Ironside Ed is confronted by a pair of aggressive LA cops (r) (5291647)
2.55 Through the Keyhole (r) (T) (1197662)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (6837444) **3.45** Enchanted Lands: The Adventures of the Wishing Chair (5482395) **3.55** Hububb (9112227) **4.10** Chipmunks Go to the Movies (5874598) **4.35** The Really Wild Show (3411647) **5.00** Newsround (4176173) **5.10** Grange Hill (9863260)
5.33 Rewind (T) (234227)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (464918)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (95)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (47)
7.00 Holiday Jill Dando rides the trail in the American West (T) (7444)
7.30 EastEnders Frank takes Peggy for her biopsy (T) (31)
8.00 Holby City Muriel McKendrick finds an old colleague a bit of a handful as a patient (T) (4463)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (3463)
9.30 Workers at War Graduates are subjected to a weekend of gruelling scrutiny at the IBM assessment centre. Last in series (T) (76840)
10.00 Naked Gun 33 1/3: The Final Insult (1994) FILM Leslie Nielsen reprises his role as the inept cop Frank Drebin. Directed by Peter Segal (T) (8091821)



Dudley Moore stars as a mixed-up advertising executive (11.20pm)

11.20 Crazy People (1990) FILM Dudley Moore stars in this screwball comedy about an executive committed to a mental institution. Directed by Tony Bill (T) (650043)
12.45am Jinxed! (1982) FILM Comedy about a blackjack dealer who sets about seducing the girlfriend of a winning customer. Don Siegel directs (215951)
2.20 Weather (9000512)
2.25 BBC News 24 (58085680)

WALES

9.30 Week In Week Out (76840) **10.00 The Next Files** (609821) **10.10 Workers at War** (T) (737043) **10.40 FILM: Naked Gun 33 1/3: The Final Insult** (T) (1117314) **11.55 FILM: Crazy People** (T) (807024) **1.25am FILM: Jinxed!** (911864) **3.00 News** (T) (39979339) **3.05-6.00 BBC News 24** (73745999)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Pingu **7.05** Teletubbies **7.30** Snorks **7.50** Blue Peter **8.20** Taz-Mania **8.40** Polka Dot Shorts **8.50** Pingu **9.00** German Globo **9.05** Hallo aus Berlin **9.10** Working It Out **9.25** Music Makers **9.45** Numbertime **10.00** Teletubbies **10.30** Watch **10.45** Science Zone **11.05** Space Ark **11.15** Megamaths **11.35** Words and Pictures **11.50** D-Mag **12.10pm** English Express **12.30** Working Lunch **1.00** Oakie Doke (68337444) **1.10** The House Detectives (r) **1.40** Hart-Davis on History **2.10** Awash with Colour **2.40** News; Weather (T) **2.45** Westminster (T) **3.25** News; Weather (T) **3.30** The Village (r) **3.55** Kaye **4.25** Ready, Steady, Cook (T) **4.55** Esther (T) **5.30** Today's the Day (T)
6.00 The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air Comedy, starring Will Smith (r) (T) (593482)
6.25 Heartbreak High Ryan gets tough after a bad experience (T) (917937)



Music news with Jayne Middlemiss and Jamie Theakston (7.10pm)

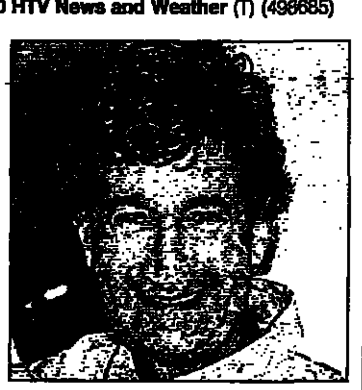
7.10 The O Zone P.J. Harvey talks to Jamie Theakston and Jayne Middlemiss meets the Supernaturals (T) (788918)
7.30 From the Edge Users' guide to the new welfare reforms for the disabled (T) (73)
8.00 CHOICE **House Proud** New series following the construction of self-built dream houses (1/4) (T) (4734)
8.30 Your Money or Your Life New series. Fi Glover presents the personal finance show with the human touch (T) (3869)
9.00 Home Front in the Garden (T) (1005)
9.30 CHOICE **Close Up** The progress of four British screenwriters in Hollywood (3/6) (T) (164666)
10.20 Coming Clean: The Truth About Housework Children's views of housework (T) (239111)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (175192)
11.10 Seinfeld Kramer designs a bra for men (T) (100918)
11.35 The Larry Sanders Show Larry's future looks bleak. Last in series (T) (981005)
11.55 Weather (406024)
12.00am Despatch Box (82203)
12.30 BBC Learning Zone: Open University: Linkage Mechanisms **1.00** The Programmers **1.30** The Arch Never Sleeps **2.00** Schools: Marsalis on Music/Talent 2000 Shorts **4.00** Discovering Portuguese/Portuguese Discovered **5.00** Business and Training: Career Moves **5.45** Open University: Towards a Better Life **6.10** The Emergence of Greek Mathematics **6.35** The Location Problem

WALES

6.25pm From the Edge (T) (578173) **6.55 Monet's Garden** (4/5) (797531) **7.05 FAW Premier Cup** (79586314) **9.20 Your Money or Your Life** (T) (313192) **9.50-10.20 House Proud** (1/4) (T) (467647) **11.10-11.55 Close Up** (3/6) (T) (959376)

HTV

5.30am ITN Morning News (67314)
6.00 GMTV (5155869)
9.25 Trisha (T) (8387598)
10.30 This Morning (T) (44992192)
12.15pm HTV News (T) (4480734)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News; Weather (T) (58444)
1.00 Shortland Street The nurses suspect a plot (55918)
1.30 Home and Away Joel causes a scene (T) (80043)
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous American talk show (T) (5777260)
2.45 Wheel of Fortune (T) (859666)
3.15 ITN News Headlines (T) (4123802)
3.20 HTV News (T) (4153043)
3.25 CITV: Mopatop's Shop (4143666) **3.35** Rosie and Jim (9187531) **3.50** The Wombles (5474376) **4.00** Rupert (6560395) **4.25** Mike and Angelo (5857821) **4.50** How 2 (3799591)
5.10 A Country Practice Claire helps grieving parents (7235937)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News (T) (980127)
5.58 HTV Crimestoppers (208802)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (597208)
6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (T) (267444)
6.25 WEST: HTV Weather (650376)
6.30 WEST: The West Tonight (T) (43)
7.00 Emmerdale Stella confronts Pollard (T) (5840)
7.30 WEST: West Eye View Current affairs reports from around the region (27)
7.30 WALES: Fishlock's Wild Tracks The Lleyn Peninsula. Last in series (T) (27)
8.00 CHOICE **The Bill** First of a three-part story (T) (9531)
9.00 Peak Practice The arrival of new locum Dr Sam Morgan at the Beeches sets female hearts a-flutter (T) (9395)
10.00 News at Ten; Weather (T) (57227)
10.30 HTV News and Weather (T) (498685)



A year in the life of the Formula One boss Eddie Jordan (10.40pm)

10.40 Driving Ambition: A Season with Eddie Jordan Profile of the motor racing entrepreneur (T) (281192)
11.40 The Big Match Preview of the European Cup quarter-finals (606802)
12.10am WEST: Pleasure Guide Regional entertainment magazine (9238406)
12.10 WALES: Tales from the Darkside: Trick or Treat (9238406)
12.45 The Haunted Fishtank The irreverent TV review with Ed Hall (53319)
1.15 Highlander MacLeod meets a girl who is the double of the late Tessa (r) (901319)
2.15 Judge Judy (2432932)
3.00 Wish You Were Here? (r) (12601390)
3.25 Dead Men's Tales: Hanging by a Thread by Joe Simpson. Drama about two young Britons who attempt to climb the awesome Bonatti pillar (r) (12611777)
3.55 Football Extra Football League highlights (r) (9656951)
4.50 ITV Nightscreen (1542628)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except: **12.20pm-12.30 Central News;** Weather (T) (7628802) **1.00 Heart of the Country** (3/18) (r) (T) (55918) **1.30 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (6192111) **2.15-2.45 Home and Away** (T) (850395) **3.20-3.25 Central News** (T) (4153043) **5.10-5.40 Shortland Street** (7235937) **6.25-7.00 Central News;** Weather (T) (267444) **7.30-8.00 30 Minutes** (1/8) (27) **10.30-10.40 Central News;** Weather (T) (498685) **11.40 Central Sport Special** (166314) **12.45am Highlander** (r) (904406) **1.45 Judge Judy** (9667241) **2.25 Wish You Were Here?** (r) (T) (9696067) **2.50 Dead Men's Tales** (r) (8173951) **3.15 Football Extra** (r) (914883) **4.15 Central Jobfinder '99** (T) (6305796) **5.20-5.30 Asian Eye** (3775086)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.27 Westcountry News** (T) (4480734) **12.27-12.30 Illuminations** (7636821) **1.00 Emmerdale** (r) (T) (55918) **1.30 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (6192111) **2.15-2.45 Home and Away** (T) (850395) **3.20-3.25 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (4153043) **5.08 Birthday People** (8460424) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (7235937) **6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live** (T) (66463) **7.30-8.00 Stranger than Fiction** (1/6) (T) (27) **10.30-10.40 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (498685) **12.15am-12.45 Power Game** (r) (54048)

MERIDIAN

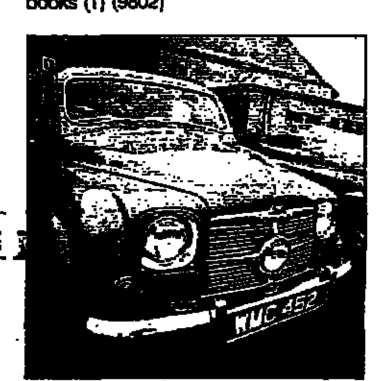
As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;** Weather (4480734) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (7235937) **6.00 Meridian Tonight** (T) (63) **6.30-7.00 Surprise Chefs** (7/10) (43) **7.30-8.00 Wildlife SOS** (27) **10.30-10.40 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (498685) **12.15am-12.45 Pier Pressure** (r) (54048) **5.00-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (77932)

As HTV West except: **12.19pm Anglia Air Watch** (7647937) **12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (7628802) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (7235937) **5.59 Anglia Weather** (T) (208802) **6.00 Anglia News** (T) (63) **6.30-7.00 About Anglia** (43) **7.30-8.00 Out to Lunch with Brian Turner** (1/13) (27) **10.29 Anglia Air Watch** (519869) **10.30-10.40 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (498685) **11.45-12.45 Midweek Kick-Off** (971647)

Starts: **6.00am Sesame Street** (r) (88260444) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (67213173) **9.00 Ysgolion:** Science in Focus (29573024) **9.20 What the Papers Said** (29133579) **9.30 Eureka** (74401869) **9.45 Addysg Rhyw** (74499024) **10.00 The Number Crew** (14446395) **10.10 TVM** (91238260) **10.25 How We Used to Live** (91257395) **10.45 Worlds of Faith** (96547579) **11.00 First Edition** (15300840) **11.15 Stage One** (15390463) **11.30 Powerhouse** (T) (68665753) **12.00pm Bewitched** (T) (97444821) **12.30 Sesame Street** (T) (26279666) **1.00 Planed Plant** (T) (67216260) **1.30 The Three Stooges** (r) (37889550) **1.50 FILM: The Lamp Still Burns** (T) (78308753) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (T) (67549444) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (67568579) **4.3 0 Ricki Lake** (T) (67557463) **5.00 Planed Plant** (90549289) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (67571043) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (93897376) **6.10 Heno** (T) (86387579) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (90552753) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (67558192) **8.00 Y Sioe Gelf** (T) (90538173) **8.30 Pengelli** (T) (90557208) **9.00 To the Ends of the Earth** (2/6) (T) (37709314) **10.00 Brookside** (T) (72014666) **10.35 Queer as Folk** (2/8) (T) (52625260) **11.15 Boyz Unlimited** (4/6) (T) (38791685) **11.45 Carry On Darkly** (41479598) **12.45am Journeys Into the Outside with Jarvis Cocker** (2/3) (T) (90016241) **1.45 Diwedd 4.00 Ysgolion**

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (73424)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (43173)
9.00 Schools: Science in Focus (4757173) **9.20** What the Papers Said (8297289) **9.30** Eureka (8142463) **9.45** Stop, Look, Listen (8147918) **10.00** The Number Crew (5468734) **10.10** TVM (9345208) **10.25** How We Used to Live (9357043) **10.45** Worlds of Faith (9687647) **11.00** First Edition IV (3551376) **11.15** Stage One (3574227)
11.30 Powerhouse (T) (7666)
12.00pm Sesame Street (T) (47840)
12.30 Bewitched (r) (T) (89314)
1.00 Pet Rescue Highlights (T) (46260)
1.30 Australia Wild The wildlife of Papua New Guinea (r) (T) (3244956)
2.05 The Oklahoma Kid (1939) FILM Western, starring James Cagney as an outlaw who sets out to avenge the death of his father. With Humphrey Bogart. Directed by Lloyd Bacon (T) (6289666)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (21)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (56)
4.30 Countdown (T) (3438314)
4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (5548005)
5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (92)
6.00 Dishes Dating show (T) (55)
6.30 Home Improvement Tim is guest of honour at an awards banquet (T) (85)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (672647)
7.55 The 1999 Citibank Private Bank Photography Prize The work of photographer Paul M. Smith (T) (556531)
8.00 Brookside Alec gets in Niamh's good books (T) (9802)



A nostalgic look at Rover's jet-propelled cars of the 1960s (8.30pm)

8.30 Classic British Cars Rover's radical experiments with jet-propelled cars in the 1960s (2/8) (T) (8937)
9.00 The Coroner Birmingham City Coroner's Office comes under pressure to release bodies quickly in accordance with Muslim tradition (3/4) (T) (7937)
10.00 Father Ted Dougal and Ted produce a song for Europe (r) (T) (55869)
10.30 Queer as Folk Schoolboy Nathan relentlessly pursues Stuart, and Vince is mistakenly fixed up with a heterosexual date (2/8) (T) (160260)
11.10 CHOICE **Journeys Into the Outside with Jarvis Cocker** Mexico and India. Last in series (3/3) (T) (514802)
12.15am Un Coeur en Hiver (1992) FILM A violinist sets her sights on a violin-maker — only to become the object of his business partner's desire. Emmanuelle Béart and Daniel Auteuil star. Directed by Claude Sautet (467067)
2.10 French Dressing (1964) FILM A deckchair attendant and a local reporter conspire to turn a run-down seaside town into a popular resort. Comedy, with James Booth. Ken Russell directs (2489357)
3.35 Off Key (93403947)
4.00 Schools: Geography Junction (1260048) **5.15** Eureka! (6117796)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport (7408294)
7.00 WideWorld Part eight. Integrating special needs pupils in mainstream education (r) (T) (8329227)
7.30 Milkshake! (2844753)
7.35 Wimzie's House (r) (4823482)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (2046005)
8.30 Dappledown Farm (r) (2045376)
9.00 Instant Gardens (4/14) (r) (T) (2565983)
9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (r) (4605024)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (3835163)
10.20 Sunset Beach Maria learns her memory will return (T) (3892666)
11.10 Leeza (4064555)
12.00pm 5 News at Noon (T) (2049192)
12.30 Family Affairs Claire wakes up battered and bruised (r) (T) (1427314)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Clarke breaks his deal with Jack (T) (8328598)
1.30 The Roseanne Show Entertainment and chat; 5 News Update (1426685)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (9305314)
2.30 Good Afternoon Lifestyle magazine; 5 News Update (1903802)
3.30 Joshua's Heart (TVM 1990) FILM Emotional drama about a woman who leaves her boyfriend, but can't bear to be parted from his son. Melissa Gilbert and Tim Matheson star. Directed by Michael Pressman (T) (6895799)
5.20 Sunset Beach Shown earlier (r) (T); 5 News Update (3976192)
6.00 100 Per Cent Computer-generated quiz (2649395)
6.30 Family Affairs Claire apologises for provoking Pete (T) (2630647)
7.00 5 News; Weather Round-up of the day's stories (T) (9376802)
7.30 Champions of Nature Conserving the natural habitat of the Canadian grizzly bear (T); 5 News Update (2629531)
8.00 Crime Report Includes a report on Albert Wilson, the Dover man on death row in the Philippines (2/6) (9385550)
8.30 What's the Story? Vanessa Collingridge investigates the issues surrounding dangerous driving, with a look at appropriate punishments for offenders and safety measures to reduce the death toll; 5 News Update (9304685)
9.00 Memphis Belle (1990) FILM Second World War drama charting the exploits of a clean-cut American B17 bomber crew who will all be going home if they manage to complete their 25th and final mission over Germany successfully. Starring Matthew Modine, Eric Stoltz, John Lithgow, Harry Connick Jr, Tate Donovan and Billy Zane. Directed by Michael Caton-Jones (T); 5 News Update (8740208)
11.00 Two Booth lands Gus in trouble with the IRA, British Intelligence and the FBI. Drama, *starring* Michael Easton (2754821)
11.55 The Jack Docherty Show With music by the Stereophonics (8109840)
12.35am Live and Dangerous Sports magazine (58046048)
3.45 Asian Football Show Weekly round-up (7842241)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H Ann receives a death threat (7330154)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (8004661)

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● For further listings see Saturday's *Vision*

SKY ONE

7.00am Count Duckula (90109) **7.30** The Simpsons (15314) **8.00** The Simpsons (77005) **8.30** Hollywood Squares (76376) **9.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (79173) **10.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (11598) **11.00** Guilty! (91734) **12.00pm** Jenny Jones (17111) **1.00** Mad About You (95550) **1.30** Jeopardy (21537) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (59060) **3.00** Jenny Jones (39869) **4.00** Guilty! (18376) **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (1043) **6.00** America's Dumbest Criminals (3647) **6.30** Dream Team (6227) **7.00** The Simpsons (9444) **7.30** The Simpsons (5111) **8.00** Rescue Medics (8192) **8.30** Coppers (7227) **9.00** World's Wildest Police Videos (49734) **10.00** Bloody Foreigners! (42821) **11.00** Dream Team (19005) **11.30** Star Trek: Voyager (74840) **12.30am** The Commish (34390) **1.30** Long Play (7409749)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 51) **The Postman (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) **Good Will Hunting (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) **Good Burger (1997)** **As Good as It Gets (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) **The Edge (1997)**

FILMFOUR

6.00pm The Lost World (1960) (27114463) **7.45** The Universe of Dermot [illegible]

SKY PREMIER

[illegible]

(1996) (51579) **8.00 Grosse Pointe Blank (1997)** (56024) **10.00 Sleepers (1996)** (27261753) **12.25am Moll Flanders (1996)** (83587661) **2.30 North Star (1996)** (47086) **4.00 Strictly Business (1991)** (61932)

SKY MOVIEMAX

5.35am Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness on the Planet of the Apes (1974) (26029647) **7.10 Earth Minus Zero (1996)** (73257869) **9.00 Shepherd on the Rock (1994)** (60376) **11.00 Godzilla vs Megalon (1976)** (37260) **1.00pm Possums (1997)** (64192) **3.00 Shepherd on the Rock (1994)** (85956) **5.00 Earth Minus Zero (1996)** (86753) **7.00 Possums (1997)** (90181) **9.00 In My Sister's Shadow (1997)** (57753) **11.00 Body Parts (1991)** (89260) **12.30am Silent Lies (1996)** (878086) **2.05 Purple Rain (1984)** (667339) **3.55 Playback (1995)** (323032)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm The Tin Star (1957) (7429395) **6.00 Monkey Business (1952)** (2822444) **8.00 The Rain People (1969)** (2834289) **10.00 Breakfast at Tiffany's (1961)** (1701519) **11.55** 100 Years, 100 Movies: Out of Control (4581314) **12.50am Frankenstein (1931)** (52419970) **2.05 Next Stop, Greenwich Village (1976)** (2743864) **4.00 About Mrs Leslie (1954)** (1668947)

TNT

9.00pm The Angry Hills (1959) (33299686) **11.00 The Roaring Twenties (1939)** (23112802) **1.00am Eye of the Devil (1967)** (45777593) **2.45 The Hill (1965)** (22114796) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

[illegible]

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics Oz Style **7.30** Sports Centre **7.45** Racing News **8.15** Moto-Plus **8.45** Sports Centre **9.00** Fish TV **10.00** Ice Hockey **12.00pm** International Bowls **2.00** Powerboat and Jetski World **2.30** Total Sport **3.00** World Motor Sport **5.30** Fastrax **6.00** Sports Unlimited **7.00** Women's Golf **9.00** Ice Skating **10.30** Snowboarding **11.00** Cycling **11.30** Moto Cross **12.00am** Fast Trax **12.30am** Women's Golf **2.30** Sports Centre **2.45** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm World Wrestling Federation, Live Wire **1.00** Fish TV **2.00** A to Z of Motor Sport **2.30** Wonderful World of Golf **3.30** International Bowls **5.30** Snowboarding **6.00** Cycling **6.30** Fish TV **7.30** Snowboarding **8.00** Angling **10.00** The Entertainers **10.30** Boxing Superbouts **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Athletics **8.30** Nordic Skiing **10.00** Biathlon **11.00** Football: Eurogoals **12.30pm** Equestrianism **1.30** Dog Sled Racing **2.00** Nordic Skiing **3.00** Live Biathlon **4.00** Football: Eurogoals **5.30** Trial **7.00** Strongman **8.00** Football **8.30** Live Football **10.30** Football **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.00** The Bill **9.30** When the Boat Comes In **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Juliet Bravo **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.25** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Rhoda **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** 2point4 Children **7.40** Dad's Army **8.20** The Brittas Empire [illegible]

GRANADA PLUS

[illegible]



Four boys end up on the wrong side of the law in *Sleepers*, a tale of innocence lost and, ultimately, revenge (Sky Premier, 10pm)

Boat **4.00** The Professionals **5.00** Hart to Hart **6.00** Emmerdale Farm **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** The Professionals **8.00** The Benny Hill Show **9.00** Sweeney **10.00** The Brian Conley Show **10.30** Wheeltappers and Shunters' Social Club **11.00** Granada Men and Motors

CARLTON SELECT

5.00pm What's Cooking? **5.30** Gridlock **6.00** London Bridge **6.30** Get Back **7.00** [illegible]

DISNEY CHANNEL

[illegible]

Adventures of Spot **12.05** Animal Shelf **12.15** Pocket Dragons **12.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **12.55** The Toothbrush Family **1.00** Bite Size **1.10** Rosie and Jim **1.30** The Big Garage **1.45** PB and J Otter **2.00** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **2.30** Quack Pack **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Art Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules: The TV Show **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00** FILM: [illegible]

FOX KIDS NETWORK

[illegible]

11.30 Life with Louie **11.55** Home to Rent **12.05pm** Dennis and Gnasher **12.30** Donkey Kong Country **1.00** Mowgli: The New Adventures of Jungle Book **1.25** Ace Ventura **1.55** The Incredible Hulk **2.20** Iron Man **2.45** Fantastic Four **3.10** X-Men **3.30** X-Press **3.35** Spiderman **4.00** Goosebumps **4.25** Hero Turtles: The Next Mutation **4.50** Casper **5.00** Dennis and Gnasher **5.30** Ace Ventura **6.00** Donkey Kong Country **6.30** EekStravaganza **6.55** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Rocko's Modern Life **6.30** Bruno the Kid **7.00** CatDog **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** The Wild Thornberrys **8.30** Arthur **9.00** Children's BBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Papa Beaver Stories **11.00** The Magic School Bus **11.30** PB Bear/Budgie the Little Helicopter/Animal Antics/Family Ness **12.00pm** Rugrats **12.30** Blue's Clues **1.00** Bananas in Pyjamas **1.30** Little Bear Stories **2.00** Paddington Bear/Lizzie's Library/Portland Bill/Mr Men **2.30** Children's BBC **3.00** Children's BBC **3.30** Doug **4.00** Three Friends and Jerry **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Renford Rejects **6.30** Moesha **7.00** Close

BRAVO

8.00pm Martial Law **9.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **9.30** Cops **10.00** The Late Lounge **10.30** Erotic Confessions **11.00 FILM: The Punisher (1990)** **1.00am** Erotic Confessions **1.30** The Late Lounge **2.00** Martial Law **3.00 FILM: Pandemonium (1982)** **5.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **5.30** Cops **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Jenny **7.30** Grace Under Fire **8.00** [illegible]

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

[illegible]

Twilight Zone **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Buck Rogers in the 25th Century **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Time Trax **7.00** Quantum Leap **8.00** V **9.00** Twin Peaks **10.00 FILM: Pulse (1995)** **11.45** Sci-Focus Special **12.00am** Dark Skies **1.00 FILM: Spaceballs (1987)** **3.00** The Twilight Zone **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Today's Gourmet **6.30** Graham Kerr **7.00** Room Service **7.30** The Painted House **8.00** Wedding Story **8.30** A Baby Story **9.00** Simply Painting **9.30** Potted History **10.00** Real Gardens **10.30** Cookabout with Greg and Max **11.00** The Diceman **11.25** The Home and Leisure House **11.30** Fishing Australia **12.00pm** Our House Down Under **12.30** Antiques Trail **1.00** Our House **1.30** Hometime **2.00** New Yankee Workshop **2.30** Home Again with Bob Vila **3.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm **3.30** Go Fishing

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **4.30** Walker's World **5.00** Time Travellers **5.30** Terra X **6.00** Wildlife SOS **6.30** Adventures of the Quest **7.30** The Quest **8.00** Great Escapes **8.30** Out There **9.00** Trailblazers **10.00** Pedal for the Planet **11.00** Force 21 **12.00am** Spell of the North **1.00** Terra X **1.30** Time Travellers **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00pm The New Adventures of Black Beauty **12.30** Hollywood Safari **1.30** Crocodile Hunter **2.00** Breed All About It **2.30** Human/Nature **3.30** [illegible]

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

[illegible]

HISTORY

4.00pm The Clash of Wings: The Plunge into Reality **5.00** The Aircraft Carriers **6.00** Pillars of Death **7.00** Bombs

CARLTON FOOD

9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **10.00** The Green Gourmet **10.30** Alive and Cooking **11.00** Worrall Thompson Cooks **11.30** A Slice of the Action **12.00pm** Food Network Daily **12.30** Loyd's Louisiana **1.00** Coxon's Kitchen College **1.30** Thoroughly Modern Brush **2.00** Chez Bruno **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Winter Nosh **3.30** A Slice of the Action **4.00** Tessa's Tastebuds **4.30** Lunch with Ed Baines **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny and Crew **6.20** 10 plus 2 **6.40** Philbert the Frog **6.45** Greedysaurus and the Gang **6.50** Polka Dot Shorts **7.00** Practical Parenting **7.05** Professor Bubble **7.30** Caillou **7.35** Bug Alert **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.25** Babaloos **8.30** Tiny Tales **8.35** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Can't Cook, Won't Cook **9.30** The Roseanne Show **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Animal Rescue **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Special Babies **1.40** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **2.10** LA Law **3.10** Living Room **4.00** Michael Cole **4.50** Rolonda **5.40** Ready, Steady, Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.00** Adrenalin Junkies **9.00 FILM: Saved by the Light (1995)** **11.30** Sex, Life Down Under **12.00am** Close

ZEE TV

[illegible]



ATHLETICS 44
Why the millennium could make a world of difference to Lewis

SPORT

ROWING 50
Sharif faces up to a tall order in the Boat Race



TUESDAY MARCH 2 1999

Atherton and Thorpe among quartet given fortnight to prove fitness

England set World Cup deadline

By Richard Hobson

ALTHOUGH England became the first of the Test-playing countries to announce their squad for the World Cup yesterday, the 15 players named by David Graveney may not be those who open the tournament against Sri Lanka on May 14. In effect, the party amounts to little more than a declaration of hope and intent.

Four of those chosen — Michael Atherton, Graham Thorpe, Neil Fairbrother and Ian Austin — will undergo fitness tests within the next fortnight and if any of the quartet fails what Graveney described as "a rigorous assessment", a replacement will be announced on March 15.

The selectors have decided to issue this early deadline even though the final 15 does not have to be lodged until March 31. There is still the provision to replace anybody injured during the Champions' Cup in Sharjah, a triangular tournament involving India, Pakistan and England, from April 8 to 16.

SQUAD

A J Stewart (Surrey, captain), M A Atherton (Lancashire), I D Austin (Lancashire), R D B Croft (Glamorgan), M A Ealham (Kent), N H Fairbrother (Lancashire), A Flintoff (Lancashire), A R C Fraser (Middlesex), D Gough (Yorkshire), G A Hick (Worcestershire), A J Hollioake (Surrey), N V Knight (Warwickshire), A D Mullally (Leicestershire), G P Thorpe (Surrey), V P Wells (Leicestershire).

Graveney, the chairman of selectors, said: "On March 15 it will not be good enough to say: 'Oh well, they'll be alright in four or five weeks' time.' If there is any doubt at all, we cannot afford to fudge the issue because the competition is too important. The frequency with which Atherton's back has been flaring up was considered, but he will be rested over a number of days and we are confident he will come through it."

The squad leaving for Sharjah via Pakistan on March 29 contains ten players who featured in the recent one-day series in Australia, plus Atherton, Thorpe, Austin, Andrew Flintoff and Angus Fraser. Vince Wells will act as the reserve wicketkeeper to Alec Stewart, the captain. Those who can consider themselves unlucky to have been omitted are Nasser Hussain and Dean Headley. Both were prominent in Australia and Graveney telephoned Hussain, as well as Mark Alleyne and Mark Ramprakash, to explain the decision yesterday morning. The omission of Ashley Giles means that Graham Hick will support Robert Croft in the spinner's role.

Graveney said that Atherton's back problem is different from the one that troubled him in Australia. As for Thorpe, he began a programme of rehabilitation specifically geared towards the World Cup when he left the tour before the third Test match in Adelaide.

With the exception of Hick, the batting left much to be desired in the subsequent one-day games. Fairbrother has become increasingly prone to hamstring problems while Austin has undergone a knee operation.

The white ball used for the tournament is notorious for swinging and seaming more than the red variety and Atherton's ability to work singles provides an alternative to batsmen who prefer to hit through the line. The latter group will struggle on overcast mornings. Equally, Fraser and Austin have been chosen to exploit these conditions.

Graveney said: "There were areas of our batting that caused concern in Australia. Atherton's record in this country is impressive and Thorpe's absence from the middle order has been a big loss in five-day and one-day cricket. To go back to . . . two of our most experienced players makes sense."

Compared with the well-drilled athleticism of Australia and South Africa, the squad does not inspire great confidence in the field, even with everybody fully fit. Graveney said, not entirely convincingly, that "weaknesses you may perceive will not be weaknesses", but he acknowledged that "our fielding will have to be up by 5 or 10 per cent".

Flintoff, 21, the Lancashire all-rounder, is uncapped at one-day level but he made two Test appearances against South Africa last summer. He owes his selection to an impressive A tour of Zimbabwe and South Africa, the decline of Ben Hollioake and the unpredictability of Chris Lewis. The decision occupied a good proportion of a meeting lasting six hours.

"We have lost six of our past seven one-day games and we felt that a new, young player was the right way to go," Graveney said. "We had to point out to him at the end of last summer the levels of fitness required to play international cricket. People who have seen him in domestic cricket have no doubt about his ability. He has lost weight and done what we asked. He gives us another option at No 6 and could open the batting."

Competition rules on the replacement of players come into force on May 2. After that date, a tournament panel of three doctors must assess any injury before approving a change and the unfit player will not be allowed to return to the squad. England have been led to believe that they can replace somebody even if the injury is a recurrence of an old problem. In other words, Atherton could still be withdrawn during the tournament if his back flares up again, however many fitness tests he passes beforehand.

Cork back in fold, page 49
Slater left out, page 49

Graveney, the chairman of selectors, said that no risks would be taken with players' fitness when he announced the squad yesterday. Photograph: Laurence Griffiths/Allsport

Flintoff makes most of slim tour chance

FIGURES have not always been kind to Andrew Flintoff. When he last played for England, in the final Test match against South Africa at Headingley, he failed to score a run or take a wicket (Thrasy Petropoulos writes).

Of greater concern was the condition of his lower back, which, with the excess weight he was carrying, had restricted his bowling. Flintoff probably benefited from having been omitted from the winter Test and one-day tour parties to Australia, being sent instead to Zimbabwe and South Africa with the A team. He has been the outstanding batsman on the tour, averaging 78 in first-class matches, and the most effective one-day bowler.

"I lost about 2st before coming on tour," he said. "I did a lot of training and got a lot fitter. It seems to have paid off. Now I'm getting back into it [bowling] again, it's given me a tremendous boost. Hopefully, I can bring it up to what it was before."

FA asks to view Le Saux video

By Matt Dickinson and Stephen Wood

GRAEME LE SAUX'S hopes of avoiding detection and punishment for his sly assault on Robbie Fowler in the FA Carling Premiership match between Chelsea and Liverpool last Saturday were foiled yesterday when the Football Association asked the BBC for its videotape of the incident, in which the Chelsea defender appeared to elbow his Liverpool opponent in the back of the head.

The England full back can expect the minimum punishment of a three-match ban, but there will have been surprise and disappointment at Anfield last night at the revelation that Fowler is also likely to face action. Gérard Houllier, the Liverpool manager, has also been charged with misconduct for remarks that he was said to have made about Mike Reed, the referee, who sent off Jamie Carragher in a match at The Valley last month, in which Charlton Athletic beat Liverpool 1-0.

Fowler, who was booked for a foul on Le Saux on Saturday, further enraged his opponent by turning his back on him at the subsequent free kick and then sticking out his backside. The FA may deem Fowler's taunting actions worthy of punishment, although he is unlikely to receive worse than a fine. Le Saux, who was cautioned for time-wasting during Chelsea's 2-1 victory, has little chance of getting off as lightly after another episode that has exposed how brittle his temper can be.

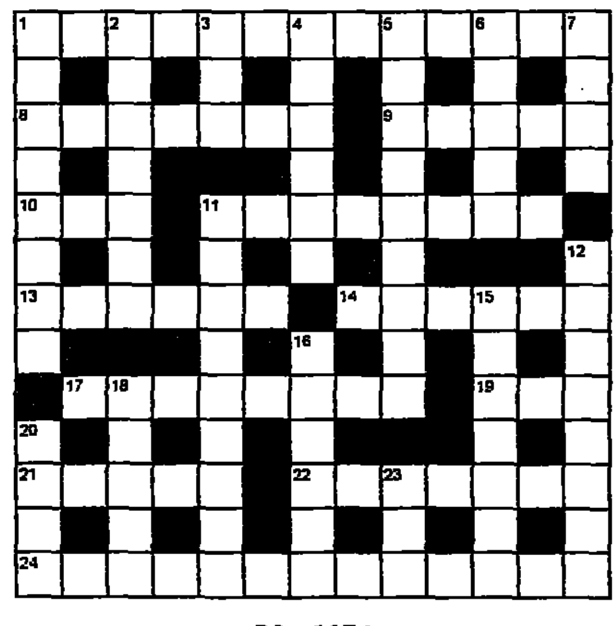
Hot-headed enough to punch David Batty, a Blackburn Rovers team-mate, during a European Cup match, Le Saux is not quite the aesthetic, thinking-man's footballer that he is often portrayed to be. He was also dismissed earlier this season after a brawl with Sébastien Perez at Ewood Park.

Fortunately for Chelsea, who are facing mounting disciplinary problems, any sentence imposed on Le Saux will not start until well after the FA Cup quarter-final against Manchester United at Old Trafford next Sunday, a game from which Frank Leboeuf, Dennis Wise and Celestine Babayaro will be missing.

Gianluca Vialli, the Chelsea player-manager, is due to start a three-match suspension next week.

Ronaldo out, page 48

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1654

ACROSS
1 Getting one's way in tiny steps (6,7)
8 Back of skull (7)
9 Strange; non-citizen (5)
10 Prohibit (3)
11 Creator, not supreme, god (8)
13 Disinclined (to) (6)
14 Senseless destroyer (6)
17 Charming, captivating (8)
19 Saucerless cup; one swindled (3)
21 Ballade final stanza (5)
22 Approve; sign back of cheque (7)
24 Sit down at last (3,4,4,2)

DOWN
1 Pleasure craft; Kern musical (4,4)
2 A permit (7)
3 Geog. plan (3)
4 Jap. matting (6)
5 (Liquid) solidify (9)
6 Sugary cake topping (5)
7 Slowly go down (4)
11 Abandonment (9)
12 Pile of mine waste (4,4)
15 Blameworthy conduct (7)
16 Preoccupy (6)
18 Dislodged turf (5)
20 Cannabis; plant for rope (4)
23 One Welsh, two Scot. rivers (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1653
ACROSS: 8 Nairobi 9 Mensa 10 Trousseau 11 Owe 12 Logic 14 Testily 15 Pretend 17 Bambi 19 Tun 20 Teddy bear 22 Corfu 23 Confine
DOWN: 1 Instil 2 Ciao 3 Horse chestnut 4 Divert 5 Impulse buying 6 Encomium 7 Napery 13 Greenery 15 Putsch 16 Deduce 18 Israel 21 Exit

Celtic demand the dismissal of Farry over Cadete blunder

By Phil Gordon

FERGUS McCANN, the Celtic chairman, will walk away from the club about £40 million richer next month when he sells his shares in the former Scottish champions and leaves for Bermuda. Yet an equally prized item in his baggage might be the scalp of Jim Farry, the Scottish Football Association (SFA) chief executive, who was suspended by his employers yesterday as McCann basked in the glow of victory after a three-year battle to prove that Farry's negligence had cost them the services of Jorge Cadete, the Portugal player, during the finale to the 1995-96 season.

Celtic have asked for Farry's removal as chief executive and there can be little doubt he faces a struggle to hold on to his job. The SFA halted an arbitration tribunal that had been examining the Cadete affair and released a statement yesterday, which admitted liability. It has also agreed to pay unspecified compensation to Celtic for the delays in registering Cadete in 1996.

John McBeth, the vice-president of the SFA, took barely a minute to read the statement, saying the case raised by Celtic "has been settled by the parties prior to completion of arbitration. The settlement is in favour of Celtic."

Not surprisingly, McCann had much more to say on the subject. The Celtic chairman said that he felt vindicated, but added: "This should never have taken three years. It should have been resolved at the time."

Cadete was purchased in February 1996 from Sporting Lisbon to augment Celtic's push for the Scottish Premier League title, yet, despite the player's international transfer clearance (ITC) being received by the SFA from the Portuguese FA on March 7, 1996, Cadete was still not registered in time to face Rangers in a Scottish Cup semi-final a month later.

Celtic lost that match 2-1 and pursued it as the basis of their case against the SFA, which runs the competition.

However, had Cadete — who scored five goals in six games when he was finally registered for the remainder of 1995-96 season and 33 goals the next season — not been prevented from playing, he may have had an influence on the destination of the title, too.

Celtic lost the league to Rangers by four points, a margin that would have been markedly reduced had they defeated their rivals in a league match on March 17, instead of drawing 1-1.

At the time, Celtic were told that Cadete's ITC was invalid. However, Fifa, the game's governing body, sent Farry a fax reaffirming that it was valid. Incredibly, a subsequent SFA inquiry absolved Farry of any blame.

Celtic's statement said yesterday that "Mr Farry's position is untenable" and that "he cannot be allowed to hold an exercise such powerful authority".

McCann would not comment on whether Farry had acted out of bias towards Rangers. "I would not want to attribute motives," he said. "However, there is no question that what happened was with intent. Whether that was obstinacy, incompetence or malice, I will leave up to you."

Farry also issued a statement yesterday, saying he was "co-operating with my employers in an additional investigation into issues raised by the dispute". There was no public apology from the SFA. It had undertaken that task earlier in the day, with a letter to Celtic from McBeth, stating that "as a consequence of failures by the chief executive . . . the registration had not progressed as it ought. The SFA acknowledges that had registration been given, the player [Cadete] would have been available to play against Rangers."

Farry: investigation

McCann: vindicated